



SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT  
of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court



# THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA



*From left: Justice Jay B. McCallum, Justice James T. Genovese, Justice Jefferson D. Hughes III, Chief Justice John L. Weimer, Justice Scott J. Crichton, Justice William J. Crain, Justice Piper D. Griffin.*

## **CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN L. WEIMER**

Sixth Supreme Court District  
Assumption, Iberia, Jefferson,  
Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard,  
St. Charles, St. James, St. John the  
Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, and  
Terrebonne Parishes. \*

## **JUSTICE WILLIAM J. CRAIN**

First Supreme Court District  
Jefferson, Orleans, St. Helena,  
St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and  
Washington Parishes. \*

## **JUSTICE SCOTT J. CRICHTON**

Second Supreme Court District  
Allen, Beauregard, Bossier, Caddo,  
DeSoto, Evangeline, Natchitoches,  
Red River, Sabine, Vernon, and  
Webster Parishes. \*

## **JUSTICE JAMES T. GENOVESE**

Third Supreme Court District  
Acadia, Avoyelles, Calcasieu,  
Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette,  
St. Landry, and Vermilion. \*

## **JUSTICE JAY B. MCCALLUM**

Fourth Supreme Court District  
Bienville, Caldwell, Catahoula,  
Claiborne, Concordia, East Carroll,  
Franklin, Grant, Jackson, LaSalle,  
Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse,  
Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, Tensas,  
Union, West Carroll, and Winn  
Parishes. \*

## **JUSTICE JEFFERSON D. HUGHES III**

Fifth Supreme Court District  
Ascension, East Baton Rouge,  
East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston,  
Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge,  
and West Feliciana Parishes. \*

## **JUSTICE PIPER D. GRIFFIN**

Seventh Supreme Court District  
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. \*

\* See Court District Maps on pages 12-13.

## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

The Supreme Court Annual Report is a useful guide to judicial personnel and contacts throughout the state, as well as an overview of the Court's progress in 2021 and includes maps of electoral districts for the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and District Courts.

## **RESOURCES ON THE WEB AT [WWW.LASC.ORG](http://WWW.LASC.ORG)**

The **STATISTICAL DATA** section summarizes two-year activity trends in juvenile, civil, criminal and traffic categories for courts at all levels in the state.

The **2021 LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT ANNUAL REPORT** and the **GUIDE TO LOUISIANA COURTS** featuring a list of judges, clerks and administrators (complete with contact phone numbers) for the Courts of Appeal, District Courts, and City and Parish Courts statewide are now available on the Louisiana Supreme Court website at [www.lasc.org/PressRoom](http://www.lasc.org/PressRoom).

## 2021: RISING AGAIN TO THE CHALLENGE

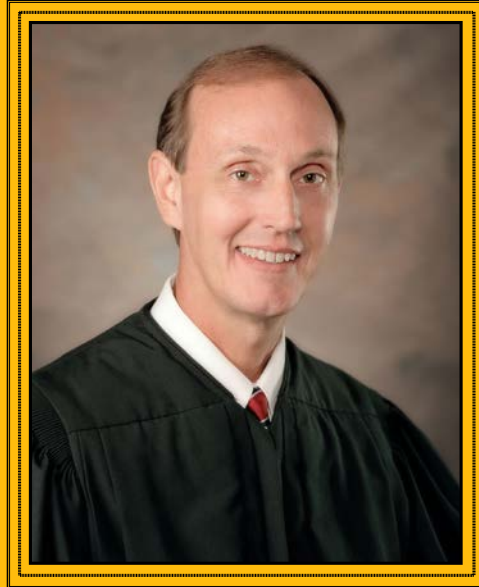
I am pleased to present to you the 2021 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. This report demonstrates the hard work and dedication of the Louisiana state judiciary including our judges, court administrators, clerks of court, court staff, and everyone who contributes to the daily operations of the judicial branch of government.

On behalf of myself, and with gratitude to my learned and respected colleagues, Justices Hughes, Crichton, Genovese, Crain, McCallum, and Griffin, in order of their seniority, I submit this report.

“Work smarter, not harder” is a quote heard often. This quote contains much wisdom, inasmuch as it extolls the virtues of preparation and efficiency. This quote also seems to imply a binary choice, *i.e.*, either work smarter, or work harder. Sometimes, however, as in the year 2021, that choice was unavailable, because nature sent a catastrophic hurricane to our coast and a pandemic with renewed virulence among our population. Under such exigent circumstances, we had to do both...work smarter and work harder.

Looking back on the year 2021, I am proud of how Louisiana’s judiciary rose to those challenges. At every turn, I saw my colleagues, and the Supreme Court staff, and judges and their staff members circumvent the obstacles presented by Hurricane Ida and Tropical Storm Nicholas and COVID-19 with both diligence and wisdom—because they had learned many invaluable lessons about hurricanes and the pandemic during the preceding year.

As a first case in point, in March of 2021, various justice system stakeholders convened to address the backlog of cases that had arisen due to the pandemic. This *ad hoc* committee consisted of judges from the district level upwards, as well as representatives from divergent interest groups such as district attorneys, public defenders, law enforcement, clerks of court, court administrators, plaintiff’s counsel, defense counsel, and the bar in general. This committee grappled with the demands of the moment, and what emerged from this collaboration was a document titled “Handling Case Backlog & Post-Pandemic Docket Management.” Just as it was the product of collaboration, the document emphasized the necessity of working in collaboration to prioritize and schedule cases. On the civil side of the caseload, placing cases on the court docket was thought to be an important motivator for parties to settle the cases that could be resolved short of trial. Opportunities for creative solutions were also advanced, such as polling litigants to ascertain whether a stipulation could be reached for a six-person jury, which would be easier to convene than a twelve-person jury. On the criminal side of the caseload, a similar thought



prevailed regarding docketing cases, inasmuch as setting cases for trial is often an impetus for plea agreements. And again, creative solutions were advanced for moving cases forward, such as by facilitating remote but confidential communications between defense counsel and their clients, and suggesting courts promulgate internal guidelines to identify when remote hearings could be conducted.

These insights were beneficial for another important effort early in 2021. Drawing upon the assistance of the same stakeholders mentioned above (who had worked so quickly their *ad hoc* “backlog” committee could not be given a formal name), the Louisiana District Judges’ Association formed the Resuming Jury

Trials Task Force. Aided by the prescient insights of state health experts, especially Dr. Joseph Kanter, the Task Force promulgated a “Guide to Resuming Jury Trials.” This Guide contains strategies for maximizing pre-trial appearances and hearings via remote, technologically-assisted means, and the best practices for safely conducting the actual trial and jury deliberations.

In early 2021, when the *ad hoc* “backlog” committee and the Resuming Jury Trials Task Force convened, the public health situation was improving, and yet health authorities advised at that time that additional “waves” of the coronavirus were possible. So it was an ever-present thought that the virus could cause additional backlogs later. No one then imagined the devastation that lay ahead from Hurricane Ida. But, the work of these two groups, the *ad hoc* “backlog” committee and the Resuming Jury Trials Task Force, would again prove immensely valuable for the judiciary’s recovery from that terrible event.

Judges and court employees in large swaths of the state were displaced by Hurricane Ida, and in some instances, courthouses were rendered inoperable due to storm damage. In the immediate aftermath, all the lessons learned from the prior year’s hurricanes—from which people and courts are still recovering in Southwest Louisiana and other areas—were implemented, as hearings were conducted remotely whenever possible and wherever practicable. Time and again, judges and court employees have risen to such challenges and again proved their mettle. Even so, some delays were again imposed upon the judicial system by such an enormous calamity, and the

“Guide to Resuming Jury Trials” and “Handling Case Backlog & Post-Pandemic Docket Management” again provided valuable guidance. Unfortunately, the “omicron” variant of the coronavirus that debuted in late 2021 is still a reality as I sit at my desk writing this in early 2022, but relief appears to be in sight, and then so too will the “Guide to Resuming Jury Trials” and “Handling Case Backlog & Post-Pandemic Docket Management” prove useful for the state’s recovery.

To this point, I have written about how the judiciary has responded to events outside of its control. As impressive as those responses have been, I would do no justice if I even tacitly suggested that in 2021 the members of the judicial branch of government were merely reactionary. Actually, I would run out of space in this publication if I were to extoll the qualities that my fellow Justices, the Supreme Court staff, and Louisiana’s judges and employees have displayed as forward-thinking professionals this past year. However, two judges bear mention for their exemplary service, which has been recognized on the national stage.

Judge Yvette Alexander, who serves on the Baton Rouge City Court, was sworn in as president of the American Judges Association on October 4, 2021. This association is the largest independent organization of judges from all jurisdictions and levels of courts throughout the United States and Canada. Chosen by a vote of her peers, her selection is a reflection of Judge Alexander’s dedication to our system of justice and her leadership.

Judge Scott Schlegel, who serves on the 24th Judicial District Court, was the recipient of the 26th Annual William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence from the National Center for State Courts. This award was in recognition of Judge Schlegel being a facilitator of innovative technological advancement in the Louisiana judiciary, while also demonstrating qualities of judicial excellence, including integrity, fairness, open-mindedness, knowledge of the law, professional ethics, sound judgment, intellectual courage, and decisiveness.

The selection of two of our judges, Judge Alexander and Judge Schlegel, in one year for recognition at the national level demonstrates that Louisiana has a deep bench of judicial talent. And our judges share their talent in a myriad of ways, inside and outside the courtroom. Despite all the challenges that 2021 brought to our state, a number of judges were still able to present the law and civics education program “Judges in the Classroom, Students in the Courtroom” to elementary and high school students, plus college students, law students, and adults in continuing education. Last year, despite challenges from a waxing and waning pandemic plus a devastating

hurricane and tropical storm, students were taught by judges in record numbers. And as the public health outlook improves, additional judges will be able to do this important outreach in our state’s schools. Its impact is impossible to quantify, but based on the questions alone that judges receive, all who have participated know that the program’s messages of personal responsibility and involvement in our representative government are helping to shape the conscientious citizens of the future.

To sum up, the material that you are about to read reflects the dedicated service that judges and judicial employees rendered to Louisiana. In 2021, the judiciary—including the various programs about which you will read in greater detail—again revealed itself as adaptable, agile, and resolute in the face of adversity in its dedication to our state. It is therefore my pleasure to submit this report to the Supreme Court of Louisiana, to the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association, to the citizens of Louisiana, and to other interested parties this Annual Report of the Supreme Court for 2021, which includes reports of the Judicial Council, the Office of the Judicial Administrator, the Clerk of Court, the Law Library of Louisiana, the Louisiana Judicial College, and the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana, as well as statistical information of the state judiciary reflecting the work of the past year. The report also includes information from the Committee on Bar Admissions and the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, entities which operate under the auspices of the Supreme Court. I am grateful to our judges, our judicial associations, our Judicial College, our courts’ staffs, and all who were involved in our continuing efforts throughout 2021 to improve judicial administration despite the challenges of storms and the strains of a pandemic. I commend you for your efforts, and I feel blessed to have colleagues on the Supreme Court and serving on courts throughout our state who care about equality and the quality of justice, and who are so diligent and dedicated.



John L. Weimer  
Chief Justice  
Louisiana Supreme Court



## THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

The *Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana*, established in 1950, serves as the research arm for the Supreme Court. It also acts as a resource center where ideas for improving and expediting judicial procedures and/or correcting shortcomings in the system are studied. Most of the work is done through standing committees or the creation of *ad hoc* committees.

The Judicial Council welcomed a new Chair, Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer, and two new members in 2021: Supreme Court Associate Justice Piper D. Griffin, representing the Supreme Court, and Judge Kelli Terrell Temple, representing the City Court Judges Association. The Council also welcomed back Judge Ramona Emanuel, who was reappointed to a second term representing the Louisiana District Judges Association.

Supreme Court staff continued to facilitate the work of a legislative committee, the Louisiana Commission on Justice System Funding, created to study court financing in light of the changes made by the 2017 Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Associate Justice William J. Crain and Julia Spear, Deputy Supreme Court Judicial Administrator for Research & Development, sit on the Commission. Research and Development staff coordinated research for the Commission and developed work groups to tackle tough questions regarding the cost of running the judicial system. The work continues through February 1, 2022.

The **Standing Committee to Evaluate the Need for New Judgeships** examines requests for new judgeships against set criteria and conducts a site visit to the requesting jurisdiction prior to making a recommendation to the Judicial Council. A request for a new judgeship must be received by the Judicial Administrator's Office by October 1st of each year.

The Council did not consider any requests for new judgeships in 2021 because the Council is working to update the judicial workload evaluation criteria. Also, site visits, an essential part of any evaluation of a new judgeship request, were not possible due to COVID-19 and weather-related disasters.

Prior to the October 1, 2021 deadline, the Council received requests for new judgeships from the 12th JDC, the 21st JDC, and the 23rd JDC, and a request for a new commissioner from the 22nd JDC. Because the Council is working to update the judicial workload evaluation criteria, the Council decided in October 2021 to suspend action for one year on the new judgeship requests from the 12th JDC, 21st JDC, and the 23rd JDC. The Council allowed the request from the 22nd JDC for a new commissioner to proceed to the legislature without recommending the request or taking any further action.

The Council created the **Standing Committee to Evaluate Requests for new Court Costs and Fees** in 2003 to guide the Judicial Council's process of reviewing and evaluating requests for new court costs, fees, and increases in existing court costs and fees. The Judicial Administrator's Office must receive the request by October 15 of the year prior to the year the request is to be introduced into the legislature.

In February of 2021 the Council considered three requests for new or increased fees. The Natchitoches City Marshal requested approval of legislation that would put his office under the default fee statutes for receiving the fees in civil matters. The Council voted to recommend this request. The second request was from the Concordia Coroner's office. The Committee commended the new coroner, for doing everything he can to bring that office up to modern standards. However, the Committee found that not all existing sources of revenue had been fully utilized. The Council voted not to recommend that request. The third request was from the City of Sulphur, requesting a \$5 court cost to assist in building a court wing on the new Sulphur City Hall that is currently in the planning stages. The Committee voted not to recommend that request, primarily based on need.

During 2021 the Council received one request for an increased court cost from the Louisiana Judicial College.

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Honorable John L. Weimer, Chair  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Louisiana  
Honorable Piper D. Griffin  
Justice, Supreme Court of Louisiana  
Honorable Marc E. Johnson  
representing Conference of Court of Appeal Judges  
Honorable John Michael Guidry  
representing Conference of Court of Appeal Judges  
Honorable Daniel Ellender  
representing Louisiana District Judges Association  
Honorable Ramona Emanuel  
representing Louisiana District Judges Association  
Honorable Kelli Terrell Temple  
representing Louisiana City Judges Association  
Honorable Kim Stansbury  
representing Louisiana Council of Juvenile  
and Family Court Judges  
Honorable Pamela Baker (Non-voting)  
representing Louisiana Council of Juvenile  
and Family Court Judges

Barry H. Grodsky  
representing Louisiana State Bar Association  
Collin Melancon  
representing Young Lawyers Section of the LSBA  
Leo C. Hamilton  
representing Louisiana State Law Institute  
Honorable Franklin J. Foil  
State Senator  
Honorable Nicholas J. Muscarello, Jr.  
State Representative  
Honorable Scott M. Perrilloux  
representing Louisiana District Attorneys Assn.  
Honorable Freddie Pitcher, Jr. (retired)  
Appointed by the Louisiana Public Defender Board  
Todd S. Clemons  
representing the Louisiana State Bar Association  
appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court  
Honorable David Dart  
representing Louisiana Clerks of Court Assn.  
Dr. Sarah Moody-Thomas  
Citizen Representative

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Justice Jefferson D. Hughes III  
Justice Scott J. Crichton  
Justice James T. Genovese  
Justice William J. Crain  
Justice Jay B. McCallum

### STAFF OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD  
Judicial Administrator  
Supreme Court of Louisiana  
Julia C. Spear, JD  
Deputy Judicial Administrator, Research & Development/  
Judicial Council  
Supreme Court of Louisiana



## 2021: A YEAR IN REVIEW

This section highlights the initiatives of the Judicial Administrator's Office, the managerial arm of the Louisiana Supreme Court which serves as the staffing and fiscal agent for the Judicial Council and court-appointed task forces and committees. Program divisions of the Judicial Administrator's Office include: Children and Families, Drug and Specialty Courts, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, and Community Relations.

This section also features an update on the work of the Law Library, Judicial College, Committee on Bar Admissions, Clerk of Court's Office, Court Case Management Information Systems Division, Attorney Disciplinary Board and the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana.

### OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR



**Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD**  
*Judicial Administrator*



**Michelle Beaty, JD**  
*Office of Special Counsel*



**David Becker, JD**  
*Judiciary Commission Counsel*



**Veronica Cheneau, PHR, CHRE**  
*Human Resources*



**Frank DiFulco**  
*Case Management Information Systems*



**Rose Marie DiVincenti, CCR, RPR**  
*Court Reporter/Trial Reports*



**Robert Gunn**  
*Community Relations*



**Ramona Harris**  
*Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR)*



**Kerry Lentini, JD**  
*Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office*



**Otha Curtis Nelson, Jr., JD**  
*Children and Families*



**Darryl M. Schultz**  
*Legislative Liaison*



**Julia Spear, JD**  
*Research and Development/Judicial Council*



**Brian Wiggins, JD**  
*Language Access and Trial Court Services*



**Lauren McHugh Rocha, JD**  
*General Counsel  
Legal Department*



**Bryan Wolff, CPA, MBA**  
*Chief Financial Officer/  
Accounting Services/Budget*

## LPOR

## LOUISIANA PROTECTIVE ORDER REGISTRY

In 1997, legislation was passed which created the *Louisiana Protective Order Registry* (LPOR) and named the Judicial Administrator's Office of the Louisiana Supreme Court as the entity responsible for the development and maintenance of this database. The registry is a statewide repository for court orders issued to prevent harassing, threatening or violent acts against a spouse, intimate cohabitant, dating partner, family, or household member.

LPOR staff provide training seminars across the state to explain how the registry works, highlight relevant state and federal laws, and disseminate standardized protective order forms and interactive software.

These seminars are designed for, but are not limited to, judges, magistrates, commissioners, hearing officers, judicial administrators, clerks of court, other court personnel, victim assistance providers, victim advocates, legal services providers, and attorneys.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, LPOR conducted the LPOR Legal Seminar as a live webinar. Eleven (11) webinars were conducted that reached 359 individuals.

In 2021, LPOR entered 28,946 orders from courts across the state. Of those, 17,118 (60%) were civil orders and 11,828 (40%) were criminal orders. Since its inception through the close of 2021, more than 510,000 orders have been entered into the registry.

Certain qualifying records from LPOR are transmitted to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). At year's end, 374,694 Louisiana orders had been transmitted to NCIC since the start of the program. This includes 22,904 qualifying orders transmitted during 2021.

Also during 2021, LPOR's on-call team responded to 242 requests for order verification submitted by examiners with NICS. This federal program is designed to prevent the sale of firearms, ammunition, and explosives to those who are prohibited, including individuals who are the subject of a qualifying domestic violence order.

Additionally during 2021, LPOR responded to a total of 1,497 calls from local, state, other state, and federal law enforcement with requests for verification of orders of protection.

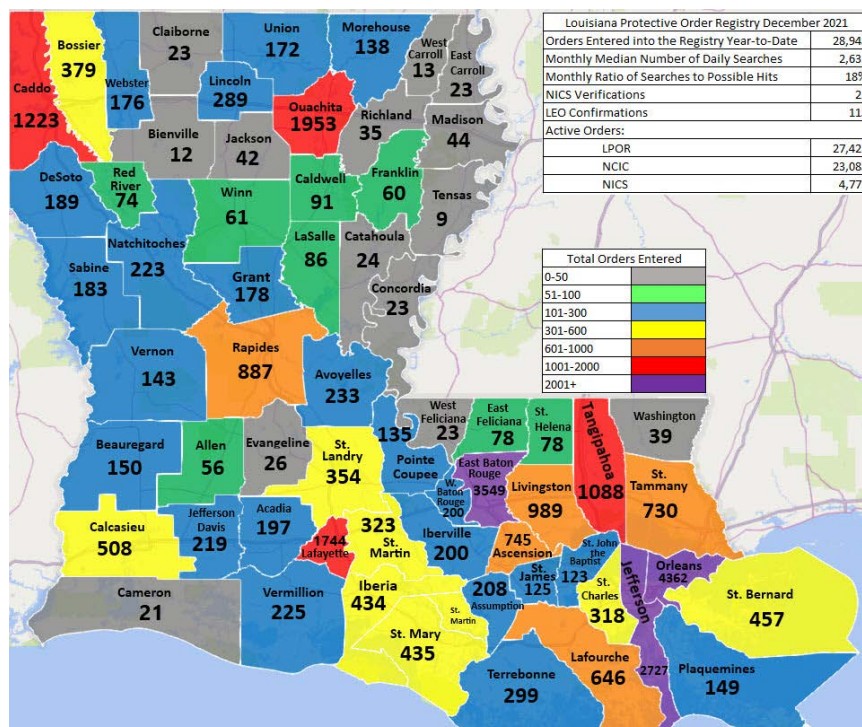


Table One: Civil Orders	1997-2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total (1997-2021)
Temporary Restraining Order	219,308	13,832	13,999	13,443	13,691	274,273
Protective Order	69,396	3,560	3,688	3,152	3,363	83,159
Preliminary Injunction	1,218	48	33	42	16	1,357
Permanent Injunction	1,764	77	74	41	48	2,004
<b>Total Civil Orders</b>	<b>291,686</b>	<b>17,517</b>	<b>17,794</b>	<b>16,678</b>	<b>17,118</b>	<b>360,793</b>
Table Two: Criminal Orders	1997-2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total (1997-2021)
Bail Restriction	70,678	8,631	9,159	8,738	10,611	107,817
Peace Bond	19,061	9	0	0	2	19,072
Combined Bail/Peace Bond	9,423	34	7	1	1	9,466
Sentencing Order	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probation Conditions	0	0	0	0	1	1
Combined Sentencing/Probation	10,641	978	1,084	767	1,213	14,683
<b>Total Criminal Orders</b>	<b>109,803</b>	<b>9,652</b>	<b>10,250</b>	<b>9,506</b>	<b>11,828</b>	<b>151,039</b>
Table Three: Totals by Year	1997-2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total (1997-2021)
<b>Total Civil and Criminal Orders</b>	<b>401,489</b>	<b>27,169</b>	<b>28,044</b>	<b>26,184</b>	<b>28,946</b>	<b>511,832</b>

## DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS

### LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURT OFFICE

In 2018, the Supreme Court Drug Court Office transitioned to the *Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office* (SCDSCO), with the aim of providing additional opportunities and ongoing support to all Louisiana specialty court judges and their staff. This will facilitate and promote the growth of these programs, which are proven alternatives to traditional criminal justice interventions. Currently there are 71 operational Louisiana specialty courts, of which 49 are drug courts. Of these 49 drug courts, 25 have been in operation 20 years or longer, and 12 have been providing services to their communities for 10 years or more. Other Louisiana specialty courts are Reentry Courts, Veterans Courts, Family Preservation/Treatment Courts, Co-occurring/Behavioral Health Courts and Sobriety/DWI Courts. Each specialty court program is comprised of a team, which is led by a judge, and includes a coordinator, treatment staff, prosecutor, public defender, law enforcement representatives, case manager, and/or other stakeholders. Specialty court teams use a non-adversarial approach to ensure that participants receive the highest level of care possible. Teams also work together to ensure program operations adhere to all applicable standards and policies. As an effective alternative to incarceration, Louisiana specialty courts are demanding programs that require frequent and random drug testing, intensive treatment, judicial oversight, and community supervision and support to assure the best possible outcomes for offenders with substance abuse disorder. Funds for Louisiana's specialty courts are appropriated by the Louisiana Legislature and administered by the Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office. The SCDSCO awards funds annually to programs statewide. Additionally, the SCDSCO closely monitors each program both fiscally and programmatically throughout the year.

#### 2021 DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURT PARTICIPANTS

	Adult Drug Courts	Juvenile Drug Courts	Family Preservation Courts	Behavioral Health Courts	DWI Courts	Reentry Courts	Veterans Courts	Total All Courts
Individual Participants Served	3,028	274	300	207	265	240	70	4,384
Individuals Screened	1,713	241	288	310	138	45	40	2,775
New Participants Admitted	1,264	156	214	63	92	38	23	1,850
Treatment Hours Administered	187,267.53	5,539.83	9,568.38	1,463.50	16,316.01	2,509	2,726.25	226,391
Drug Tests Administered	91,668	2,518	7,133	3,005	8,980	5,166	1,972	120,442

#### 2021 DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM SUCCESSES

	Adult Drug Courts	Juvenile Drug Courts	Family Preservation Courts	Behavioral Health Courts	DWI Courts	Reentry Courts	Veterans Courts	Total All Courts
Total Drug Free Babies	42	3	9	1	3	0	1	59
Obtained GED/HiSET	12	10	0	0	3	18	0	43
Obtained Employment	639	57	66	21	47	47	8	885
Obtained Secure Housing	290	2	36	12	23	44	3	410
Community Service Hours	17,830.59	642.6	329.50	76.40	9,090.36	154.50	637.10	28,761

Recidivism 7.2% (92.8% of participants who graduated in 2018 had no new convictions.)

\*The cost of care and treatment for each child born addicted to drugs is estimated to be approximately \$250,000 for the first year of life, Office of Justice Programs, 1997.

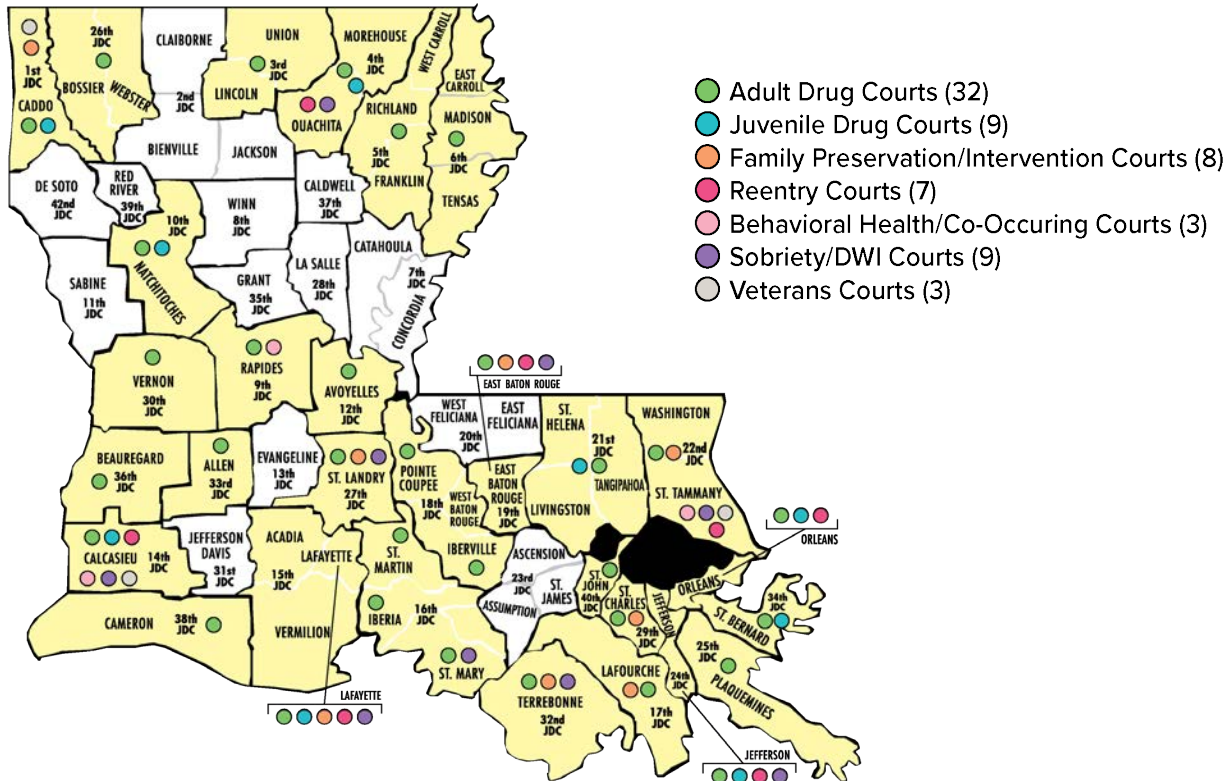
#### 2021 DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

	Adult Drug Courts	Juvenile Drug Courts	Family Preservation Courts	Behavioral Health Courts	DWI Courts	Reentry Courts	Veterans Courts	Total All Courts
Graduated/Satisfied Court Order	552	65	51	32	84	30	18	832
Average Months in Program	26	11	18	21	23	34	22	22



## DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS

### LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS



## OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

### OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

The Office of Language Access (OLA) continues its mission to provide quality interpreters to Louisiana courts. In 2021, the program conducted three virtual orientation sessions with 41 attendees. As a result, the court's interpreter pool grew to 167 registered and 27 certified interpreters.

The Supreme Court is now in the second year of a multi-year effort to improve access to language assistance services, including ensuring court interpreters and translated materials are provided to limited English proficient individuals. In 2021, all lower courts developed their own language access plans tailored for their own communities and needs. In addition, the OLA conducted training sessions for courts throughout the state and is now developing online training modules through a State Justice Institute grant. Among the most noticeable change to language access in Louisiana are upgrades to the Supreme Court's website as well as the websites of district courts. The websites now include translated information and notices in languages other than English.

#### Year 2 Goals for the OLA include:

1. Improving the quality and substance of language access plans for individual courts.
2. Enshrining language access into substantive law and rules.
3. Continuing outreach to elected officials and departments.
4. Improving data collection.

For more information about Louisiana's language access improvements, go to [www.lasc.org/languageaccess](http://www.lasc.org/languageaccess).

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES

During 2021, the Supreme Court continued initiatives designed to improve the administration of juvenile justice.



#### Families in Need of Services (FINS)

The *Families in Need of Services* (FINS) Assistance Program administered funding for the Informal FINS Offices in 42 judicial districts and 3 city courts (Hammond, Morgan City and Monroe). FINS Intake Officers statewide processed over 3,045 referrals and provided intensive case management strategies with service coordination. Highlights for 2021 include continued collaboration with the Governor's Office of Human Trafficking Prevention, the Louisiana Department of Health, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy

Centers to bridge the gap of services to help victims of human trafficking. And, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, FINS-AP for a second consecutive year received CDC opioid grant funding that afforded the opportunity to provide statewide opioid related trainings to state FINS Officers to strengthen the officers' abilities to quickly identify and properly refer treatment services for youth and caretakers needing substance treatment services.

#### Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

The *Court Appointed Special Advocates* (CASA) Assistance Program administered funding for CASA programs in 61 parishes and 41 judicial districts. In 2021, CASA programs served 2,953 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible children through the advocacy of 1,335 volunteer advocates. Closed cases resulted in the ability to place 1,136 children in permanent homes. CASA programs trained 350 new volunteer advocates.



#### Court Improvement Program (CIP)

The *Louisiana Court Improvement Program* (CIP) in partnership with the Pelican Center for Children and Families provided legal and interdisciplinary training designed to improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of abused and neglected children in our state. During 2021, the Pelican Center offered 263 training opportunities that allowed 534 professionals to receive training that resulted in 2,520 CLE hours being earned by attorneys and judges. Other 2021 CIP activities include the publication and distribution of the Louisiana Child In Need of Care (CINC) Benchbook and Bench Cards for Juvenile Judges to improve outcomes for children and families in Louisiana, with the child's health and safety being the paramount concern. The CIP continued to provide financial and strategic support to the My Community Cares state initiative that has received favorable recognition from the federal Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau as an innovative approach to building strong communities that keep families safe and together. My Community Cares provides judicial involved collaboration, coordination, and communication around services and resources in communities to create safe and stable homes. The CIP provided financial and technical support for the maintenance of a case management information systems for attorneys representing abused and neglected children; this partnership provides a process for the collection of data to assist the CIP in developing strategies to improve permanency outcomes and increase quality legal representation for both children and indigent parents. The CIP Judicial Fellow continued to provide technical support and training to our state judges, attorneys, and DCFS partners.



The Division of Children and Families provided staff support on behalf of the court for representation on the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Alternatives (JDAI) Statewide Leadership Collaborative, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission, the Child Protection Representation Commission, the Louisiana Children's Justice Task Force, the Children's Law Committee, and the Teen Court Community.

## LAW LIBRARY

### LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

Located in the Supreme Court building in New Orleans, the *Law Library of Louisiana* provides valuable services and resources for the judiciary, the bar, and the public throughout the state and beyond. The Law Library, founded in 1838, contains over 150,000 physical volumes, in addition to a full array of online legal resources. In 2021 the Law Library alternated between being open by appointment only and closed to the public due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic. Librarians maintained a virtual reference desk and provided uninterrupted service, responding to over 1,200 inquiries throughout the year. The Law Library sponsored two CLE webinars: “Translating the Civil Code into Spanish: A Jurilinguistic Exercise,” co-sponsored by the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society and attended by 284 people, including 42 outside of the U.S.; and “Disability Rights and the Louisiana Constitution,” attended by 203 people. The Law Library also prepared two display cases examining the 2021 Law Day theme, “Advancing the Rule of Law Now.” The Law Library’s collection of books and other materials is continually updated. In 2021 the library added 226 new titles and 1,148 new volumes. Additionally, the Law Library provided responses to 140 prisoner mail requests. The staff of the Library continued to publish its newsletter, *De Novo*, as outreach to the judiciary, the bar, and the public to provide useful information on legal topics and library resources.



Miriam Childs  
Director



*Law Library of Louisiana Head of Technical Services Sara Pic explains the history behind a number of the rare books among the collection of the Law Library to Civics and History teachers taking part in the Justice Catherine D. Kimball Summer Institute, sponsored by the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education.*

#### THE LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA STAFF

Miriam Childs, MLIS  
Director, Law Library of Louisiana

Sara Pic, JD, MLIS  
Head of Public Services  
Tara Cunningham, MLIS  
Head of Collection Services

Francis Norton, JD, MLIS  
Research Lawyer/Librarian  
& Government Documents Librarian

Cynthia Jones, MA  
Librarian  
Angela Reaux, MLIS  
Librarian

Ruth Mahoney  
Library Associate  
Jenny Martin  
Library Associate  
Gail Bragg  
Administrative Assistant

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The *Community Relations Division* (CRD) is the outreach division of the Louisiana Supreme Court that oversees public communications, meetings and events, courthouse tours, and other public involvement. The Community Relations Division manages the court website’s information and design ([www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org)), handles media relations, provides photographic and videographic support, and produces court publications such as the Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom newsletter. In all of these endeavors, the CRD aims to inform, educate, and further public understanding of and public trust and confidence in the Louisiana judiciary.

In 2021, the CRD continued to utilize the Court’s website as the main repository for information for courts and the public on the coronavirus and its impact on the court system, as well as the main resource for information on statewide court closures due to Hurricane Ida. The CRD issued 51 press releases in 2021, reaching over 13,300 recipients. Many of these releases contained information related to COVID-19. By comparison, 14 press releases were issued in 2019 and 50 in 2020.

In 2021, the CRD assisted with media coverage for a number of events including the Investiture Ceremony of Justice John L. Weimer as Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court; the presentation of the 26th William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, presented by the National Center for State Courts to 24th JDC Judge Scott U. Schlegel; the Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom educational initiative; and Red Mass.

In 2021, the CRD staff conducted seven courthouse tours for 276 guests, compared to 13 courthouse tours for 250 court visitors in 2020. These tours are conducted for students and other visitors from across the state and country, and from around the world.



*24th JDC Judge Scott U. Schlegel was the recipient of the 26th Annual William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, presented annually by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Joining Judge Schlegel are (l to r) Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell, who also serves as chair of the NCSC Board of Directors; Mary C. McQueen, president of NCSC; Judge Schlegel; state Representative Laurie Schlegel; and Luke Schlegel.*



## CMIS

### COURT CASE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The *Court Case Management Information Systems* (CMIS) Division collects, analyzes, and disseminates information to external agencies regarding case filings, dispositions and sentencing information from Louisiana's district courts, city courts and some mayor's courts. CMIS worked with courts and associated agencies throughout the state to provide training assistance, on-site visits, and grant opportunities to enhance the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of data collected for criminal and traffic dispositions.

#### Criminal Records

The Criminal Records Project received 507,907 criminal records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information in 2021. Of those records, 113,802 contained information that was shared with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety for inclusion in a computerized criminal history database that is accessible to law enforcement, the courts and criminal justice agencies to help enhance public safety. This is an increase of 11.5% over last year for records provided by the courts to CMIS and a 28% increase in dispositions reported to computerized criminal history database. This increase can be attributed to the courts resuming operations in 2021.

NICS is a national instant check system hosted by the FBI that searches available records on persons who are disqualified from receiving or purchasing firearms. The Supreme Court is required by LA R.S. 13:753 to provide court records to the NICS. From the records provided by Louisiana courts: 64,678 disposition records were posted to the FBI National Instant Check System (NICS) database, an increase of 12% over last year. This increase can be attributed to the courts resuming operations in 2021. Of the records posted to the NICS database, 43,499 were felony convictions, 3,948 were misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, 10,927 were drug convictions, 78 were not guilty by reason of insanity, 2,184 were incompetent to stand trial, 1,650 were probation restrictions, 1,468 were court-ordered firearm prohibitions under C.Cr.P. Art. 320(B), and 924 were civil judicial commitment orders. CMIS was also able to provide to NICS 56,187 felony indictments in 2021. As of January 3, 2022, there were 790,805 active records at NICS submitted by the Louisiana Supreme Court on behalf of the State of Louisiana in compliance with LA R.S. 13:753. Also as of January 3, 2022 there were 23,100 criminal and civil protection orders from the Louisiana Protective Order Registry active in the National Crime Information Center.

The continued success in records posted and shared is attributable to continued training efforts by CMIS and collaborative partners to improve the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of data required for posting to state and federal databases. This is accomplished by upgrades to case management systems, the implementation of clerk-district attorney electronic data exchanges in some jurisdictions, and upgrading computer equipment.

#### Traffic Records

The Traffic Records Project sends final disposition information on traffic cases to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) for inclusion in the state driver's history database. In 2021, 618,239 traffic records were received from lower courts. Of those records 147,446 were qualifying convictions reported and posted to the OMV database by the end of the year. CMIS received traffic data from 61 parishes, 24 city courts, and 9 mayor courts.

#### CMIS Outreach

In 2021 CMIS committed more than \$2,536,338 in federal grants to Louisiana courts throughout the state to support the reporting of qualifying records to the FBI NICS database and the Louisiana Criminal History database and assist Louisiana courts to respond to the coronavirus. Federal grant funds were secured in collaboration with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE). The grant funds allowed the courts to address teleconferencing, safety measures in the courts, and allowed remote workstations for judges and court staff. Utilizing available technology allowed judges, clerks and other justice partners to utilize alternate work schedules and support virtual court proceedings.

CMIS continues to improve the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of disposition reporting by working with the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association (LCCA) through a Memorandum of Understanding. CMIS and LCCA work to identify collaborative training programs and the identification of causes for incomplete or missing information necessary for posting to the Louisiana Criminal History database and the FBI National Instant Check System (NICS).

Federal Motor Carrier funding is provided to city courts and district courts for replacement or enhancement of case management systems, or to implement electronic data exchange programs. This allows the courts to improve the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of reporting traffic and DWI dispositions to CMIS for posting to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles driver history database and the National Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS).

Grant money was also used to help provide tools for judges. During 2021 the CMIS office continued to expand availability of an interface with the Louisiana Protective Order Registry for judges in order to provide access to protective orders while on the bench. This allows the judge to have access to information on orders of protection while adjudicating a case.

## JUDICIAL COLLEGE

### LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE

As the judicial education branch of the Louisiana Supreme Court, the *Louisiana Judicial College's* mission is to “provide judges with high quality, comprehensive, and relevant professional development and training, in order to ensure the timely, fair, impartial, and efficient administration of justice for all citizens of Louisiana.”

As lawyers, judges are required to attend a minimum of 12.5 hours of continued legal education every year — 1 hour of which must be on legal ethics and 1 hour on professional responsibility. Per Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXX, Part H, Rule 3(f), effective January 1, 2013, of those 12.5 hours, judges must obtain 5 from the Louisiana Judicial College.

The College typically coordinates three major conferences per year: Spring Judges Conference, Summer School and Fall Judges Conference. These are supplemented by additional seminars including New Judge Training; City, Family, and Juvenile Judges Seminar; Rural Courts Seminar; Evidence and Procedure Seminar; Torts Seminar; and other judicial trainings coordinated with various Supreme Court departments. Conferences are supplemented by a wide variety of online webinars and recorded on-demand courses.

Louisiana welcomed 76 new state judges in late 2020 and early 2021, who started the year off by completing “New Judge Training” (which began in December 2020). Held online due to COVID, the program includes a wide-ranging curriculum and also a judicial mentorship program. Soon after, the College provided the “Evidence and Procedure Seminar” with Louisiana Association for Justice in March (held online due to COVID-19), and then a “Virtual Spring Conference” in April.

Summer School, held in partnership with the Louisiana State Bar Association, was the first in-person event of 2021. The event saw record attendance from judges, who had the opportunity to select from over 100 hours of CLE programming. In August, the College hosted another in-person event, the “City, Family, and Juvenile Judges Seminar,” which provided specialized trainings for judges with relevant jurisdiction. Unfortunately, Fall Conference and the Rural Courts Conference, both scheduled for just after Hurricane Ida, were cancelled.

The College closed out the year by co-hosting the “Torts Seminar” with the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel in December, and also provided a separate end-of-year program, with specialized programming from the Louisiana Judiciary Commission and Supreme Court staff. By year's end, the College also tallied hundreds of hours of participation in the College's on-demand online CLE offerings.

The College's curriculum represents over 200 annual “Continuing Legal Education” (CLE) credit hours available to state judges at all levels. Curriculum topics include ethics, professionalism, and a wide variety of subject area specializations. Each program also provides opportunities for judges to receive updates on recent legislative and jurisprudential developments, and discussions on best practices for judicial administration.

In addition to training sessions, the College provides a number of important resources to judges including “Bench Books,” sample forms, model rules, and other template materials; and national resources. During the pandemic, the College has worked closely with the Louisiana District Judges Association and the Judicial Administrator's Office to provide tailored guides for Louisiana judges on docket management, resuming jury trials, and other pandemic-related issues.

The College also continued its work with the Louisiana Municipal Association by providing an annual “Virtual Mayors' Courts Training” for mayors, city attorneys, clerks of court, and others involved in the administration of Mayors' Courts throughout the state.

The Judicial College Staff are instrumental in providing a continued high level of service and support to the College's mission. Judges and other court stakeholders are invited to contact Judicial College Executive Director Michael Schachtman at [MSchachtman@lasc.org](mailto:MSchachtman@lasc.org). The rest of the staff includes Billie Bennett, Judicial Education Coordinator, and Marion Armand, Administrative Assistant, in Baton Rouge; and Flora Williams, Judicial Education Coordinator in New Orleans.

### LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT CO-CHAIRS

Justice Scott J. Crichton  
*Supreme Court of Louisiana*  
Justice William J. Crain  
*Supreme Court of Louisiana*

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Susan M. Chehardy (President)  
*5th Circuit Court of Appeal*  
Kirk Williams (Vice President)  
*Baker City Court*  
C. Wendell Manning (Secretary)  
*4th Judicial District Court*  
Nakisha Ervin-Knott (Treasurer)  
*Orleans Civil District Court*  
Lori A. Landry (Immediate Past President)  
*16th Judicial District Court*

#### MEMBERS

Gerard A. Caswell  
*27th Judicial District Court*  
Tiffany Chase  
*4th Circuit Court of Appeal*  
Michael Clement  
*25th Judicial District Court*  
Daniel Ellender  
*4th Judicial District Court*  
Lee V. Faulkner  
*24th Judicial District Court*  
Tracey Flemings-Davillier  
*Orleans Criminal District Court*  
Jeanette G. Garrett  
*2nd Circuit Court of Appeal*  
Hunter Greene  
*East Baton Rouge Family Court*  
Laurie Hulin  
*15th Judicial District Court*  
Jefferson Joyce  
*Monroe City Court*  
Brady O'Callaghan  
*1st Judicial District Court*  
Francis Pitman  
*2nd Circuit Court of Appeal*  
Anastasia “Staci” Wiley  
*Winnfield City Court*

#### EX-OFFICIO

Matthew F. Block  
*Executive Counsel to the Governor*  
Scott Schlegel  
*President, Louisiana District Judges Association;*  
*24th Judicial District Court*  
Sen. Gary Smith  
*Louisiana State Senate*  
Pam Baker  
*President, Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family*  
*Court Judges; East Baton Rouge Family Court*  
Pammela Lattier  
*President, Louisiana City Judges Association;*  
*Shreveport City Court*  
H. Minor Pipes, III  
*President, Louisiana State Bar Association*  
Rep. Tanner D. Magee  
*Louisiana House of Representatives*  
Hans Liljeberg  
*Conference of Court of Appeal Judges;*  
*5th Circuit Court of Appeal*

# CLERK OF COURT



John Tarlton Olivier  
Clerk of Court

## CLERK OF COURT

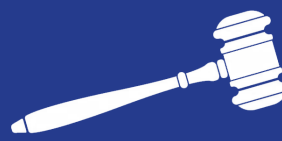
The *Clerk of Court's Office* fulfilled the following key responsibilities and accomplished the following in 2021:

- Processed all filings and dispositions, including dissemination of actions to the parties, courts, and the public via U.S. mail, electronic-mail, and the Internet.
- Scanned all filings and dispositions, which are available to Court personnel via the Court's case management system.
- Continued to fine-tune the Court's Thomson Reuters' C-Track Case Management Software, which replaced the Court's old case management system in July 2019 for a more efficient and expeditious processing of case matters.
- Continued concerted efforts to promote within the Court and the legal community the electronic submission of all documents, filings, and records, which proved to be invaluable during the Court's closure for the COVID-19 pandemic and in the wake of Hurricane Ida as the Clerk's Office was able to maintain through advanced remote capabilities the uninterrupted processing of filings and dispositions.
- Bar Admissions. Following the Court's 2020 admission of 643 bar candidates, who were subject of a bar examination waiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of attorneys admitted to the practice of law in 2021 declined to 555. However, the 2021 admission number is considerably higher than 2019 when 480 candidates were admitted, and is virtually the same number for those admitted in 2017 and 2018, which was 546 and 543, respectively. To put the overall bar admission rate in perspective, 750 attorneys were admitted to the practice of law a decade ago in 2011.
- Issued Certificates of Good Standing. The number of issued certificates of good standing increased to 1,974 in 2021, following a drop to 1,903 in 2020, which was nearly 400 fewer than the average of the prior two years. Note: Newly admitted attorneys receive two certificates, free of charge, which are not included in these numbers.
- Managed logistics for events held in the building, which included fifteen days of oral argument sittings, thirteen in-person court conference days, nine Judiciary Commission hearings, one swearing in ceremony, three health clinics, and twenty-six other law-related events. Some of these events were conducted when access to the building was restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The total number of events for 2021 is higher than the forty-one events conducted in 2020, but considerably lower than the 237 events held in 2019.
- Oversaw courthouse general maintenance and improvements. Completed the guardhouse construction project and the perimeter roof replacement. Facilitated the transition of judicial office space with the elections of Justice Jay B. McCallum and Justice Piper D. Griffin to the Court upon the retirements of Chief Justice Bernette Johnson and Justice Marcus Clark. Assisted with the logistics of relocating staff of the Judicial Administrator's Office to the Royal Street Courthouse from leased commercial office space. Through the Division of Administration, began developing a plan for a major exterior waterproofing and window refurbishing project, as well as continued repairs to the remainder of the roof.
- 2021 was a year of transition, as Justice John L. Weimer assumed the role of Chief Justice. Clerk of Court John Tarlton Olivier announced his retirement, effective January 1, 2022, having served in the position for more than twenty-five years and at the court for more than thirty-six years. Veronica Odinet Koclanes was selected as his successor, commencing her transition to the office in June 2021. These transitions were challenging due to interruptions from COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida, but for the most part were uneventful.

## OFFICE OF THE CLERK

John Tarlton Olivier, JD  
Clerk of Court  
Katie Marjanovic, JD  
Chief Deputy Clerk of Court  
Theresa McCarthy, JD  
2nd Deputy Clerk of Court  
Nathan Judge, JD  
Deputy Clerk  
Ryan Chan  
Deputy Clerk  
Eddie Gonzales  
Deputy Clerk—Records Manager  
Veronica Koclanes, JD  
Administrative Counsel  
John White, CPA  
Fiscal Manager  
Tommy M. Anderson  
Director of Security

**JUDGES**  
*in the* **CLASSROOM**



**STUDENTS**  
*in the* **COURTROOM**

The **Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom Program** is a unique educational partnership between the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education, and the Louisiana District Judges Association aimed at bolstering civics education among our state's students and assisting teachers in educating students on the workings of our government and judicial system by those engaged in that very system daily.

Judges participating in the "Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom" outreach initiative cover subject matter on a wide variety of topics in the area of civics and law related instruction, and guide their presentations as appropriate for elementary, middle, and high school levels. The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education works closely between judges and schools to arrange these opportunities for enhanced civics education.

Additionally, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Scott J. Crichton developed a program titled, "Crime, Consequences, and the Power of Choice," which educates young people about criminal law and more significantly, the real-life consequences of violating the law. He has prepared this dynamic, in-depth presentation using examples of everyday life situations that can be derailed by bad choices.



## JUDICIAL BUDGET

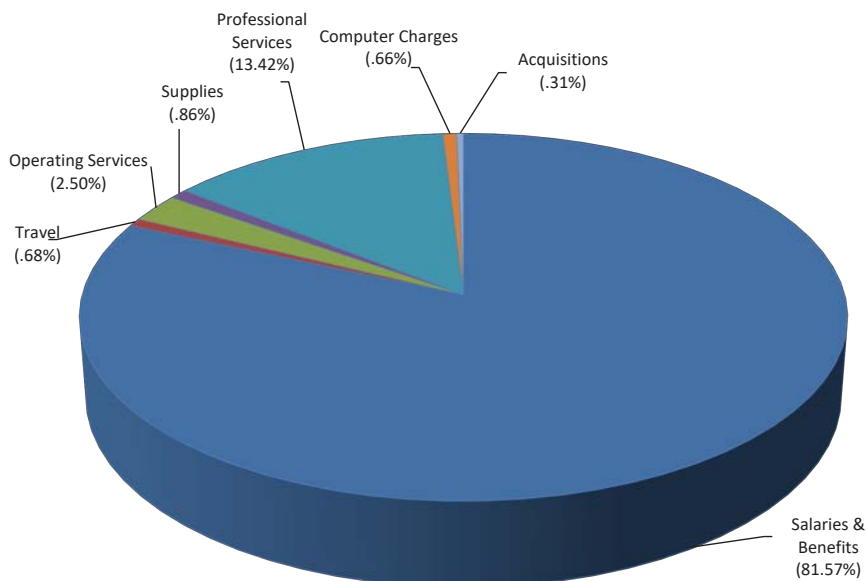
### JUDICIAL BUDGET

Louisiana does not have a unified state court funding system. Operations of district, parish, and city courts are primarily funded by local governments. An annual state legislative appropriation funds the operations of the Louisiana Supreme Court and the five courts of appeal, as well as the salaries of all state court judges. The state also funds a portion of the salaries of parish and city court judges, and the compensation of retired and *ad hoc* judges.

### FY 2021-2022 Approved Judicial Appropriation - \$183,642,214

In FY 2021-2022, state appropriated funds totaled \$183,642,214<sup>1</sup>:

Salaries and Benefits <sup>2</sup>	149,801,994	81.57% of total budget
Professional Services	24,636,139	13.42% of total budget
Operating Services	4,581,980	2.50% of total budget
Supplies	1,572,975	.86% of total budget
Travel	1,253,298	.68% of total budget
Computer charges	1,216,513	.66% of total budget
Acquisitions	579,315	.31% of total budget



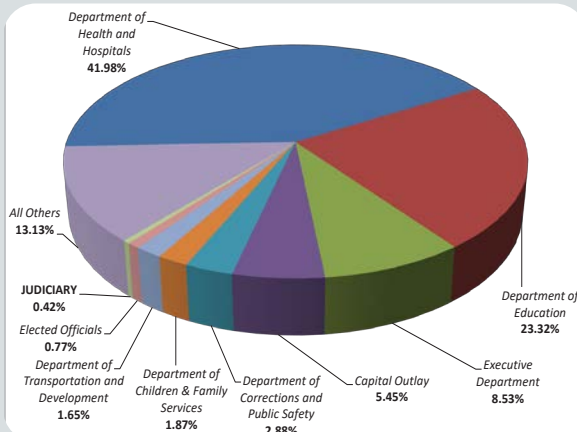
<sup>1</sup>In accordance with La. R.S. 24:513, the Louisiana Supreme Court is audited regularly by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, and the audit report is available on the Legislative Auditor's website at [www.la.state.la.us](http://www.la.state.la.us).

<sup>2</sup>Includes Salaries and/or Benefits for 364 state Judges, 7 Commissioners, 210 Supreme Court employees, 362 Courts of Appeal employees, 111 designated lower court employees, and 22 retired judges or widows in the Unfunded Pension system.

Total State Budget:  
**\$43,251,068,556**  
Judiciary Budget:  
**\$183,642,214**

In FY 2021-2022, .42% of the state's general fund was appropriated to the state judiciary.

### LOUISIANA STATE BUDGET 2021-2022



## BAR ADMISSIONS

### COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

The *Committee on Bar Admissions* is comprised of 19 active members of the Louisiana State Bar Association appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to administer the bar admissions system. It is the duty of the Committee to recommend for admission only those applicants who meet the eligibility requirements set forth in La. Sup. Ct. Rule XVII.

In 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee continued to face challenges to administer an in-person bar examination. The court issued orders on November 25, 2020 and on April 7, 2021 which outlined administration, scope and scoring of the February 2021 and July 2021 bar examinations respectively. In accordance with the court's orders, no in-person bar examinations were administered in 2021.

The Committee received and processed 988 bar examination applications, 362 law student registration forms, 56 A.D.A. requests, 7 equivalency applications and 8 in-house counsel applications. The bar examination was administered on February 9, 2021 and July 26, 2021. Examiners developed examination questions and, with the assistance of more than 300 volunteer graders, scored test papers for 236 applicants who sat for the February examination, and 589 applicants who sat for the July examination. The pass rate was 51.27% in February, and 70.12% for July.

In order to assure that each applicant recommended for admission possessed the requisite character and fitness, the Committee's Character and Fitness Department investigated and considered the backgrounds of all applicants. As part of the character and fitness screening process, 10 Commissioner hearings were held and no matters were argued before the Supreme Court. The Committee's Character and Fitness Panel recommended 9 applicants be conditionally admitted and 14 applicants be denied admission.

### COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

Larry Feldman, Jr.  
*Chairman*  
L. David Cromwell  
*Immediate Past Chair*  
Celeste R. Coco-Ewing  
*Director of Character & Fitness*  
Dow M. Edwards  
*Character and Fitness Panel Member*  
Jerry Edwards  
*Character and Fitness Panel Member*  
Keith M. Pyburn, Jr.  
*Testing Accommodations*  
C. Peck Hayne, Jr.  
*Director of Testing*

Stephanie A. Finley  
*Testing Committee Member*  
Donna P. Currault  
*Testing Committee Member*  
Thomas P. Owen, Jr.  
*Examiner—Civil Code I*  
William C. Kalmbach III  
*Examiner—Civil Code II*  
Stacy Grove Butler  
*Examiner—Civil Code III*  
Erin Wedge Latuso  
*Examiner—Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure*

Lawrence J. Centola  
*Examiner—Torts*  
Mark J. Fernandez  
*Examiner—Business Entities & Negotiable Instruments*  
Kathryn Weatherly Munson  
*Examiner—Constitutional Law*  
Todd S. Clemons  
*Examiner—Criminal Law, Procedure & Evidence*  
Glenn L. Langley  
*Examiner—Federal Jurisdiction & Procedure*

## RESOURCES ON THE WEB

Louisiana Supreme Court  
[www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org)

Committee on Bar Admissions  
[www.lascba.org](http://www.lascba.org)

Law Library of Louisiana  
<https://lasc.libguides.com>

Louisiana Center for Law & Civic Education  
[www.lalce.org](http://www.lalce.org)

Louisiana State Bar Association  
[www.lsba.org](http://www.lsba.org)

Judiciary Commission of Louisiana  
[www.judiciarycommissionla.org](http://www.judiciarycommissionla.org)

Louisiana Judicial College  
<https://lajudicialcollege.org>

Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
[www.ladb.org](http://www.ladb.org)

# LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

## LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

With the arrival of 2021 came hope that both our country and state could mount an effective defense against the scourge of COVID-19. The promise of relief offered by vaccinations and boosters dimmed as the reality of a second wave of infection known as DELTA and then a third known as OMICRON served to diminish early hopes. The wistful “return to normal” was postponed yet again as masking and distancing became a common part of our parlance and our daily lives.

The enormous impact of the pandemic upon Louisiana’s legal system has rippled its way into the lawyer regulation system as well. As court’s closed or restricted access in districts around the state, the work of lawyers was stymied and delays across both civil and criminal justice systems became the norm. Perhaps owing to those delays as well as an appropriate public preoccupation and concern with health and COVID related financial issues, complaints against lawyers during 2021 slowed considerably when compared to prior years. While every state across the country reported similar drops in complaints, the recurring belief is that the drop is only temporary and complaints are forecast to rebound as pandemic concerns fade.

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel used this temporary pause in the filing of new complaints to complete existing investigations and address lawyer discipline as well as lawyer disability issues on matters already within our regulatory system inventory. Hence during 2021 there were 67 contested filings lodged with the Disciplinary Board consisting of formal charges and/or reinstatement/readmission matters and another 30 consent discipline submissions filed directly with the Louisiana Supreme Court. In addition there were 16 disciplinary dispositions by admonition addressing minor misconduct resulting in a total of 113 matters moved forward by Disciplinary Counsel’s efforts.

For the year 2021 there were 9 disbarments, 2 permanent disbarments, 8 permanent resignations in lieu of discipline, 35 suspensions, 5 interim suspensions, 42 matters involving probation, and 6 public reprimands, all issued by the Supreme Court in the exercise of its Constitutional responsibility to regulate the practice of law.

In response to heightened legislative interest and concern, at the direction of the Supreme Court, the ODC worked with the State Bar to develop a more reliable, functional and verifiable system of lawyer advertising registration. Those creative efforts resulted in a May 6, 2021 Supreme Court order to be effective January 1, 2022 that requires all non-exempt lawyer advertising be filed with the State Bar and receive a registration number that now must be displayed in the advertising as evidence of registration compliance. Additionally, the State Bar was ordered by the Court to develop an online searchable database of all registered lawyer advertising so that the ODC, clients and any member of the public can examine the advertising to determine whether it meets the high ethical standards set by the Court.

Additional revisions to the state’s lawyer advertising rules promises to keep the disciplinary agency engaged in this area of lawyer regulation during the year 2022 and beyond. Protecting clients, the public, the profession and our legal system through firm but fair regulatory efforts has always been and remains the mission of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

## LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Linda G. Bizzarro, *Chair*  
 Laura Beth Hennen, *Vice-Chair*  
 Valerie Briggs Bargas (LSBA Member)  
 Paula H. Clayton  
 Susan Perret DesOrmeaux  
 Alfreda Sellers Diamond  
 Brian D. Landry  
 Markey W. Pierre  
 M. Todd Richard  
 Erica Johnson Rose  
 Danna Elizabeth Schwab  
 Melissa L. Theriot  
 Lori Allen Waters  
 Charles Hamilton Williamson, Jr.





# JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA

## JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA

The *Judiciary Commission of Louisiana* (Commission) is an independent, constitutionally created body charged with receiving and evaluating complaints of ethical misconduct against active state court judges and other judicial officers. The Commission conducts investigations and hearings to determine whether there is good cause to believe that a judge has committed an ethical violation that may warrant a recommendation of public discipline to the Louisiana Supreme Court. Judges are governed by a Code of Judicial Conduct and the Louisiana Constitution. Even though judges are elected, they are subject to a separate disciplinary process that may result in removal from office. This disciplinary process provides an extra layer of protection to the public and allows judges to be disciplined in ways that are unavailable for other elected public officials (i.e., through, in appropriate cases, removal from office or suspension from office with or without pay).

Complaints against judges can be received from anyone: citizens, litigants, attorneys, judges, non-judicial public officials, and anonymous sources. Some complaints are referred to the Commission by the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, and the Commission is also authorized to review matters on its own motion, which may come from media reports of alleged judicial misconduct.

In 2021, the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana received and docketed 526 complaints against judges and justices of the peace, and 110 complaints were pending from previous years. The Commission's Office of Special Counsel also received and responded to 153 requests for complaint forms. As of December 31, 2021, the Commission had 162 files pending, having disposed of over 465 files in 2021. Moreover, as further outlined below, during this year substantive changes were made to Commission rules to increase accountability for judges facing allegations of judicial misconduct, protect the public fisc, and help expedite judicial discipline matters.

The Commission's Office of Special Counsel conducts an initial screening of all complaints received and will open a file and conduct an inquiry only if the alleged conduct, if assumed to be true, would constitute a possible violation of the ethical rules contained in the Code of Judicial Conduct or Article V, Section 25(C) of the Louisiana Constitution (i.e., "for willful misconduct relating to his official duty, willful and persistent failure to perform his duty, persistent and public conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute, conduct while in office which would constitute a felony, or conviction of a felony"). Of the 526 complaints filed in 2021, 320 were screened out as not within the jurisdiction of the Commission or failing to allege facts implicating a possible violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or Louisiana Constitution. The remaining 206 complaints were reviewed to consider the need for investigation.

During an investigation, the Office of Special Counsel may take sworn statements and obtain subpoenas to gather evidence that supports or refutes the allegations in the complaint. The Commission authorized in-depth investigations in 25 complaints, including some complaints filed before January 1, 2021.

If the Commission finds, after an investigation, that there is probable cause to believe the judge may have committed ethical violations that would warrant a recommendation of discipline to the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Commission may authorize the filing of a Notice of Hearing against the judge and hold a hearing to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence of the alleged violations. In 2021, the Commission filed notices of hearing against four judges. Hearings before a randomly appointed hearing officer were scheduled in four cases but only conducted in one case, which was a public hearing under the May 1, 2020, revisions to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXIII. A motion to dispense with a hearing before a hearing officer was granted in two cases in which stipulations were reached. Additionally, during the year, four judges personally appeared before the Commission for questioning, one prior to formal proceedings and one after entering into stipulations in lieu of a hearing before a hearing officer.

Following a hearing before the Commission, if the Commission finds that the alleged misconduct is proven by clear and convincing evidence and is serious enough that the judge should be disciplined, the Commission may file a recommendation of public discipline with the Louisiana Supreme Court. The Commission may also jointly file with a judicial officer a motion for discipline by consent at any time before the Commission files a recommendation of discipline. In 2021, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court two recommendations for judicial discipline and one joint motion for discipline by consent. The Supreme Court imposed the following discipline in 2021:

- The Court suspended one judge from office without pay for his misdemeanor convictions of Sexual Battery, Failure to Disclose Identity, Interference with Arresting Officer, and Intoxication;<sup>1</sup> and
- The Court publicly censured one judge for engaging in a conversation with another judicial candidate's campaign worker, which had the potential to interfere with the working relationship between the candidate and one of his campaign workers.<sup>2</sup>

Two cases remained pending before the Court at the end of the year.

Additionally, a judicial officer may resign or retire before a recommendation of discipline is made with the Supreme Court, which causes the Commission to lose jurisdiction over the matter. In 2021, one justice of the peace resigned and one judge was required to retire under the Louisiana Constitution after formal proceedings were initiated.

At any stage of the proceedings, the Commission may recommend to the Louisiana Supreme Court that a judge be interimly disqualified, without loss of salary, from exercising any judicial function pending further proceedings before the Commission or the Supreme Court if (1) a judge has been indicted or charged with a serious crime or (2) upon receiving substantial, credible evidence which establishes probable cause that a judge may have committed ethical misconduct and may pose a substantial threat of serious harm to the public or the administration of justice. In 2021, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court one interim disqualification against one judge, which was granted, based on allegations that the judge used a racial slur, which called into question the judge's ability to impartially preside over matters involving African-Americans. The judge agreed

**THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA, CREATED IN 1968 BY AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IX, CONSTITUTION OF 1921, IS CONTINUED IN EXISTENCE BY ARTICLE V, SECTION 25, CONSTITUTION OF 1974.**

### 2021 JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Judge John J. Molaison, Jr., *Chair*  
 Judge Brady D. O'Callaghan, *Vice Chair*  
 Mr. Edward J. Walters, Jr., Esq.  
 Mr. Lloyd J. Clark  
 Mr. Robert P. Ackerman  
 Ms. VaRhonda E. Burrell, Esq.  
 Mr. Christopher Ieyoub, Esq.  
 Judge Robin D. Pittman  
 Mrs. Suzanne H. Stinson

### STAFF OF THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
 David Becker, JD  
*Commission Legal Counsel*

### STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

Michelle A. Beaty, JD, *Special Counsel*

*Continued on next page*

# JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA

*Continued from previous page*

to forego salary during the period of interim disqualification.<sup>3</sup>

The Commission resolves most complaints without sending them to the Louisiana Supreme Court with a recommendation for discipline. As demonstrated by the above statistics, most complaints are either screened out because they fail to allege judicial misconduct or closed because there is insufficient evidence to establish misconduct or the allegations of misconduct are disproven. The Commission can also close matters that do not warrant further proceedings with a private counseling letter (such as a reminder, caution, or admonishment). Private counseling letters are used by the vast majority of states and expeditiously resolve complaints, provide judges with education and guidance to assist them in avoiding conduct or practices that may give rise to future violations, and allow judges to quickly alter behavior which is problematic, but not yet serious or egregious. Moreover, any time after a Notice of Hearing has been filed, the Commission may enter into a Deferred Recommendation of Discipline Agreement (DRDA) with a judge in which the Commission defers making a recommendation of discipline to the Louisiana Supreme Court if the judge agrees to take specified remedial measures to address any harm caused by the judge's conduct and to prevent a recurrence of such conduct, such as by changing courtroom policies and procedures, obtaining additional education, and/or seeking the help of a mentor judge.

Pursuant to the May 1, 2020, revisions to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXIII, the Commission may publish and report the number of cautions, admonishments, and DRDAs issued during a year and a general description of the underlying conduct without identifying the respondent judges involved. In 2021, the Commission admonished six judicial officers for the following conduct:

- Participation in an ex parte conversation that was conducted in good faith but was ultimately impermissible;
- Public endorsement of another candidate for public office;
- Inappropriate and undignified language in the courtroom;
- Improper dismissal of case following insufficient service of hearing date and inappropriate conversation with a party following the dismissal;
- Misrepresentation in campaign advertisement and personally soliciting campaign contributions, both of which were quickly rectified by the judge prior to Commission action; and
- Failure to follow law and procedures regarding recusal and the issuance of injunctive relief, engaging in an impermissible ex parte conversation, delay in resolving a matter, and failing to ensure that the Clerk of Court provided documents as required by law.

The Commission cautioned eleven judicial officers for the following conduct:

- Social media activity that conveyed an appearance of partiality;
- Delay in issuing a written judgment;
- Inaccurate statements in campaign advertisements;
- Unintentionally conducting an impermissible ex parte discussion;
- Comment made in open court that, despite the absence of any bias, created an appearance of impropriety;
- Engaging in a conversation with a law enforcement officer, which inappropriately inserted the judicial officer into a matter involving potential litigants and issues that could later come before the court;
- Use of a judicial office address for a private purpose, where judge took corrective action;
- Considering inappropriate information in a judicial decision;
- Improper issuance of temporary restraining orders;
- Inappropriate and undignified social media posts; and
- Making a comment to a witness prior to a hearing before another judge, which gave the appearance of impropriety.

The Commission did not enter into any DRDAs in 2021.

As mentioned above, on November 19, 2021, after extensive review and deliberation, the Louisiana Supreme Court adopted certain revisions to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXIII to ensure that judges who are convicted of crimes or who resign or retire in the late stages of judicial discipline proceedings may be held accountable for the costs incurred as a result of their actions and to expedite resolution of the most important matters pending before the Commission. Judges who have been charged and convicted of a felony or lesser crime that reflects adversely on the judge's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a judge may now be required to repay the costs of appointing a judge to cover their dockets while they are suspended from performing judicial functions during the pendency of criminal and judicial discipline proceedings. Judges who retire or resign prior to the conclusion of public judicial discipline proceedings, sometimes to avoid the imposition of public discipline by the Louisiana Supreme Court, may now be required to repay the costs incurred in the Commission's investigation and litigation of the matter. Finally, in cases the Commission has determined should be expedited, including cases involving possible criminal conduct, the Commission is now required to issue an order to the hearing officer providing instructions regarding the expediting of the matter.

Regarding the nine-member volunteer membership of the Commission, in 2021, attorney Edward Walters completed a four-year term and was replaced by John Fitzmorris of New Orleans; citizen member Sibal Holt completed a four-year term and was replaced by Suzanne Stinson of Benton; and Judge Sharon Darville Wilson rotated off the Commission when she was elected to the Third Circuit Court of Appeal and was replaced by Judge Robin Pittman of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court. Judge Brady O'Callaghan of the First Judicial District Court was elected as Chairman of the Commission, succeeding Judge John Molaison of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. Attorney Christopher Ieyoub of Lake Charles was elected as Vice-Chair. David Becker, Commission Counsel, and Michelle Beaty, Special Counsel, continued their dedicated service to the Commission.



David Becker  
Commission Counsel  
Judiciary Commission  
of Louisiana



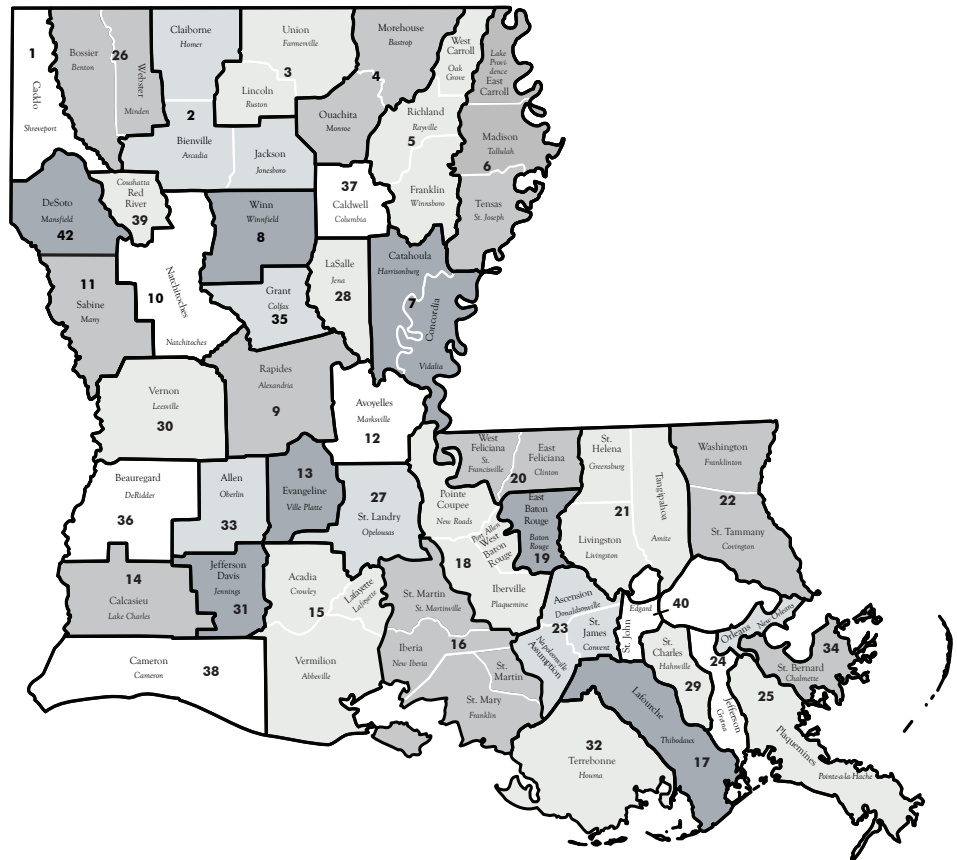
Michelle Beaty  
Special Counsel  
Office of Special  
Counsel

<sup>1</sup> *In re Hardee*, 2020-0747 (La. 1/27/21), 315 So. 3d 801.

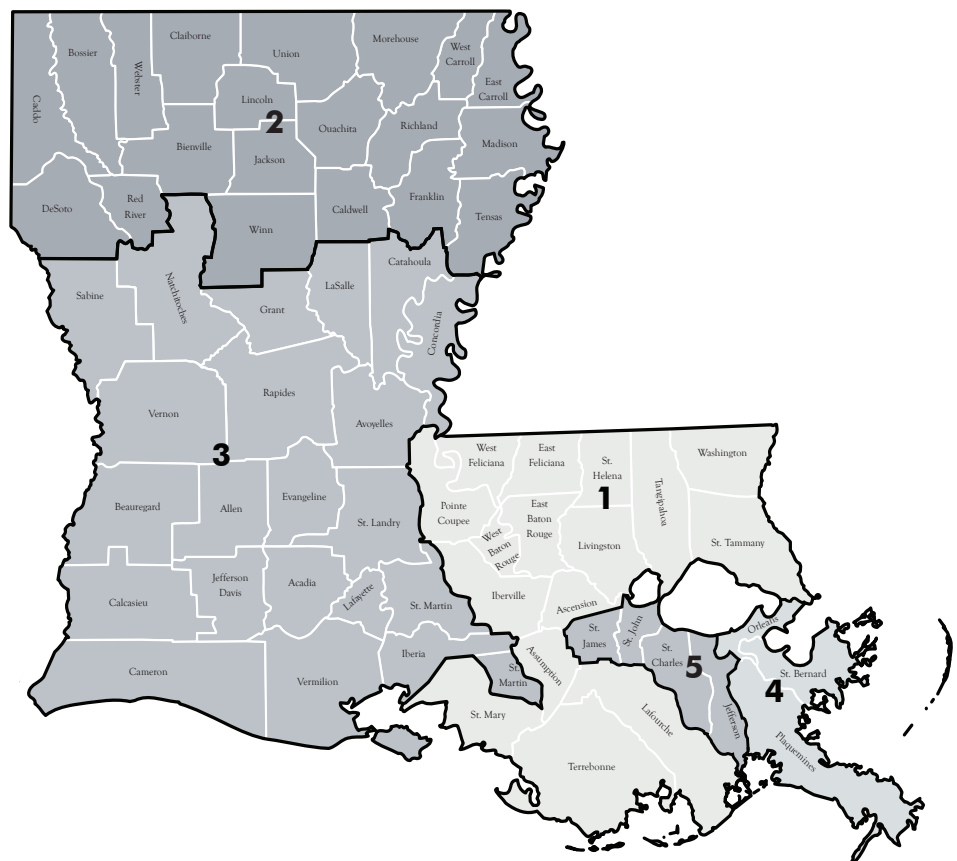
<sup>2</sup> *In re Hughes*, 2021-0771 (La. 6/30/21), 319 So. 3d 839.

<sup>3</sup> *In re Odinet*, 2021-1884 (La. 12/16/21), ~ So. 3d ~.

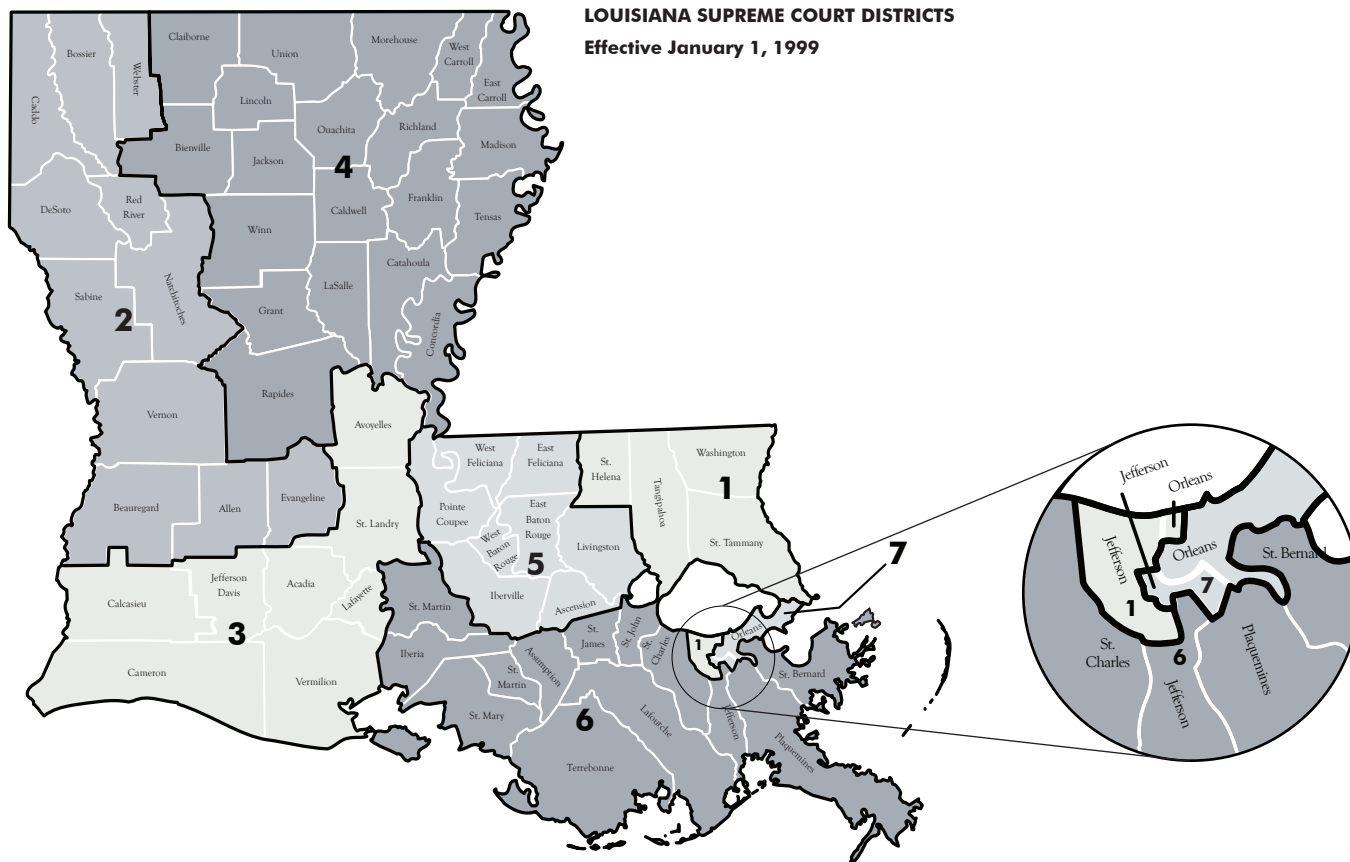
### LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



### LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL CIRCUITS







**\*Districts 1, 6 & 7 Detail:**

Jefferson Parish Precincts in the First Louisiana Supreme Court District are 1-H through 9-H; 1-K through 35-K; 1 through 46; 51 through 108; 115 through 138; 150 through 155; 157A; 157B; 158; 170; 186; 198 and 199.

Jefferson Parish Precincts in the Sixth Louisiana Supreme Court District are 1-G1; 1-LA, 1-LB; 2-L; 182 through 185; 189 through 197; and 246A through 250.

Jefferson Parish Precincts in the Seventh Louisiana Supreme Court District are 1-G; 2-G through 11-G; 1-W through 9-W; 156; 171 through 181; 187; 188; 210 through 217; and 225 through 238.

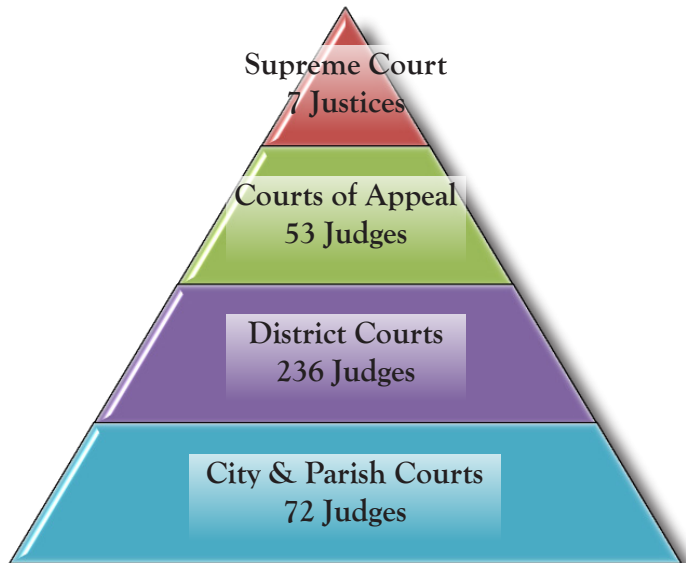
Orleans Parish Precincts in the First Louisiana Supreme Court District are 3-20; 4-8 through 4-11; 4-14 through 4-23; 5-13 through 5-18; and 17-17 through 17-21.

The remainder of Orleans Parish Precincts are in the Seventh Louisiana Supreme Court District.



# LOUISIANA'S JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

The judicial power of Louisiana, which is the power to interpret the Constitution and the laws of the state, is vested in the Judicial Branch of Government, made up of a supreme court, courts of appeal, district courts, city courts, and other courts authorized by the Constitution. In Louisiana, judges are elected. The court structure consists of: 1 supreme court, 5 courts of appeal, 43 district courts, 5 juvenile or family courts, 48 city courts, and 3 parish courts. A total of 368 judges preside over Louisiana state courts.



## Appellate Courts

### Supreme Court

- Seven justices, 10 year terms
- Sits in New Orleans
- Chief Justice is the most tenured in office
- Justices preside *en banc* (full court)

### Circuit Courts of Appeal

- 53 judges, 10 year terms
- Five circuits:
  - 1st Circuit: Baton Rouge, 12 judges
  - 2nd Circuit: Shreveport, 9 judges
  - 3rd Circuit: Lake Charles, 12 judges
  - 4th Circuit: New Orleans, 12 judges
  - 5th Circuit: Gretna, 8 judges
- Cases generally reviewed by three-judge panels

## Trial Courts

### District, Juvenile and Family

- 236 judges, six or eight year terms
- 43 judicial districts
- 4 juvenile courts
- 1 family court
- Number of judges in each court based on caseload and other factors
- Judges preside individually, not in panels

### City and Parish Courts

- 67 city court judges, six year terms
- 5 parish court judges, six year terms
- 48 city courts
- 3 parish courts
- Judges preside individually, not in panels



# LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is Louisiana's highest court and is domiciled in the City of New Orleans.

Under the Constitution of 1974, the Louisiana Supreme Court is composed of seven justices elected from districts throughout Louisiana. The justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court serve 10 year terms of office. The senior justice in point of service is the Chief Justice, who is the chief administrative officer of the judicial system.

The Supreme Court has *exclusive jurisdiction* in cases involving disciplinary action against lawyers and judges. These cases cannot be heard by any other state court – only the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has *appellate jurisdiction* in cases in which a law or ordinance has been declared unconstitutional and in capital cases where the death penalty has been imposed. These cases originate in the trial court, but bypass review by the intermediate courts of appeal in order to be heard directly by the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has *supervisory jurisdiction* over all state courts. Cases from courts reach the Supreme Court after they have been heard by a lower court; however, the Supreme Court does not automatically hear these cases. A party must first convince the Court in a special application that its case merits high court review because an error occurred in the opinion, judgment, or ruling of the lower court. This procedure is known as *applying for writs*.



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer and Justice Piper D. Griffin met with students from the Louisiana State Bar Association's Suit Up for the Future Program in June 2021. The students spent the first half of their day watching proceedings in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal with Judges Rose Ledet, Tiffany Chase, and Dale Atkins presiding, then met the judges after the court session concluded.

## 2021 Supreme Court Stats

For the first time in eight years, filings (case initiations) with the Office of the Clerk of Court have increased. 1,994 cases were filed, which is 489 more than the 1,505 cases filed in 2020. This 24.5% increase is primarily attributable to the easing of COVID-19 pandemic-related moratoriums of jury trials and restrictions on in-person proceedings. Prior to this increase, filings had slightly dropped each year since 2013, which year had 3,017 filings. Filings were at 2,716 in 2014, 2,365 in 2015, 2,283 in 2016, 2,181 in 2017, 2,117 in 2018, and 2,096 in 2019. The all-time filing high occurred in 1999 when there were 3,652 filings, which is 45.4% higher than 2021. Although there has been a decline in the total number of filings, it should be noted that there continues to be a large number of cases being filed where expedited consideration is requested. In 2021, priority consideration was sought in 149 cases, compared to 124 in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. The 2021 number is more in line with 2019, when applicants in 134 cases sought priority disposition. These cases interrupt the normal processing of work and are labor intensive, requiring immediate attention by the justices, their staff, and the Clerk's Office.



In February 2021, the Louisiana Supreme Court hosted 2nd-grade students from Homer Plessy Community School for a book reading on Thurgood Marshall as part of the Court's Black History Month outreach initiatives. Chief Justice John L. Weimer, Justice Jay B. McCallum, and Justice Piper D. Griffin were joined by Louisiana State Bar Association President Alainna R. Mire for the event.



# Louisiana Supreme Court

## CASE FILING BY TYPE

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2020 Total	2021 Total	2021 Civil	2021 Criminal
<b>APPEALS</b>				
Filed	4	3	2	1
Dismissed	0	1	0	1
Opinions Rendered				
With written opinions	6	2	1	1
Per curiams	0	0	0	0
<b>WRITS</b>				
Applications Filed (Except Prisoner Pro Se)	898	1,208	691	517
Prisoner Pro Se Writs	402	613	30	583
Granted	195	139	91	48
To be argued	41	43	37	6
With orders & transferred	154	96	54	42
Dismissed	7	73	60	13
Not Considered	50	159	12	147
Denied	1,323	1,164	554	610
Opinions Rendered	38	29	21	8
<b>REHEARINGS</b>				
Applied for	15	36	32	4
Granted	2	2	2	0
Denied/Dismissed	12	13	12	1
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
<b>ORIGINAL JURISDICTION</b>				
Petitions Filed	201	168	168	0
Opinions Rendered	9	10	10	0
Other Actions (GwO-Dism)	121	73	73	0
<b>OTHER MATTERS</b>				
Filed	0	2	2	0
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
Other Actions	0	1	1	0
<b>OTHER PER CURIAM OPINIONS RENDERED</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>TOTAL FILINGS</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>1,101</b>
Per Justice	215	285	128	157
<b>TOTAL OPINIONS RENDERED</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>

The Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction in cases involving disciplinary actions against lawyers and judges, appellate jurisdiction in capital cases where the death penalty has been imposed and in cases in which a law or ordinance has been declared unconstitutional, as well as supervisory jurisdiction over all courts.



# COURTS OF APPEAL

Louisiana has established the intermediate courts of appeal between the district courts and the Supreme Court. The work of the intermediate appellate courts is divided among five courts of appeal, domiciled in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lake Charles, New Orleans, and Gretna. The First Circuit (Baton Rouge) has twelve judges, the Second Circuit (Shreveport) has nine, the Third Circuit (Lake Charles) has twelve, the Fourth Circuit (New Orleans) has twelve, and the Fifth Circuit (Gretna) has eight. The majority are elected from districts, with a few judges being elected at large within their circuits. Court of appeal judges are elected for ten-year terms. The judge oldest in point of service on each court of appeal is the chief judge and administers the court subject to rules adopted by it.

Each court of appeal has appellate jurisdiction over all civil matters, all matters appealed from family and juvenile courts, and all criminal cases triable by a jury which arise within its circuit, except for those cases appealable directly to the Supreme Court or to the district courts.

Each court sits in panels of at least three judges selected according to rules adopted by the court. A majority of the judges sitting in a case must concur to render judgment. However, in civil matters only, when a judgment of a district court or an administrative agency determination in a workers' compensation claim is to be modified or reversed and one judge dissents, the case must be reargued before a panel of at least five judges prior to rendition of judgment, and a majority must concur to render judgment.

Except as limited to questions of law by the Louisiana Constitution, or as provided by law in the review of administrative agency decisions, the appellate jurisdiction of the courts of appeal extends to both law and facts. However, in criminal matters, the appellate jurisdiction extends only to questions of law. The supervisory jurisdiction of each circuit court of appeal extends to all cases arising within its circuit, subject to the general supervisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

There was an increase in overall filings of writs and appeals for 2021 as trial courts resumed operations. Total filings of writs and appeals increased 26.30% from 3,555 in 2020 to 4,490. Filings of appeals increased by 11% from 1,191 in 2020 to 1,322, and the number of writs filed increased by 34.91% from 2,364 in 2020 to 3,168 in 2021. The total number of opinions rendered by the courts of appeal decreased by 5.25% from 1,255 in 2020 to 1,189 in 2021.

## 2021 Courts of Appeal Stats

The number of opinions rendered per judge totaled 36 in the First Circuit Court of Appeal, 18 in the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, 21 in the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, 17 in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, and 17 in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2020 Total	2021 Total	2021 Civil	2021 Criminal
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	484	490	439	51
Motions Filed	31	48	33	15
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	533	728	461	267
Writs Refused*	403	524	309	215
Writs Granted	132	164	130	34
Pro Se Writs Filed	330	375	42	333
Pro Se Writs Refused*	296	305	24	281
Pro Se Writs Granted	53	39	14	25
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	83	93	82	11
Consolidated Opinions	32	48	48	0
Opinions Rendered **	458	430	351	79
Rehearings Acted Upon***	87	91	79	12
Appeals Pending	333	265	242	23
Argued But Not Decided	52	24	23	1
To Be Argued	281	241	219	22
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	38	36	29	7
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	131	207	142	65
Motions Filed	2	7	2	5
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	133	243	116	127
Writs Refused*	111	182	83	99
Writs Granted	23	42	29	11
Pro Se Writs Filed	172	167	5	162
Pro Se Writs Refused*	142	144	4	140
Pro Se Writs Granted	40	26	2	24
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	18	20	19	1
Consolidated Opinions	11	3	1	2
Opinions Rendered **	129	164	100	64
Rehearings Acted Upon***	39	25	21	4
Appeals Pending	83	107	75	32
Argued But Not Decided	21	14	8	6
To Be Argued	62	93	67	26
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	14	18	11	7
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	233	270	213	57
Motions Filed	13	8	6	2
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	275	379	231	148
Writs Refused*	142	271	179	92
Writs Granted	43	63	40	23
Pro Se Writs Filed	122	167	2	165
Pro Se Writs Refused*	144	174	2	172
Pro Se Writs Granted	12	19	0	19
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	20	32	30	2
Consolidated Opinions	11	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered **	265	251	183	68
Rehearings Acted Upon***	33	38	22	16
Appeals Pending	133	146	117	29
Argued But Not Decided	6	18	17	1
To Be Argued	127	128	100	28
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	22	21	15	6



LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2020 Total	2021 Total	2021 Civil	2021 Criminal
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	212	216	188	28
Motions Filed	14	22	14	8
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	355	339	283	56
Writs Refused*	278	267	228	39
Writs Granted	61	44	37	7
Pro Se Writs Filed	115	187	11	176
Pro Se Writs Refused*	58	99	7	92
Pro Se Writs Granted	58	87	4	83
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	20	32	27	5
Consolidated Opinions	1	17	14	3
Opinions Rendered **	229	207	180	27
Rehearings Acted Upon***	41	39	37	2
Appeals Pending	156	99	91	8
Argued But Not Decided	11	13	12	1
To Be Argued	145	86	79	7
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	19	17	15	2
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	131	139	120	19
Motions Filed	15	24	7	17
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	203	377	138	239
Writs Refused*	134	308	92	216
Writs Granted	44	62	38	24
Pro Se Writs Filed	126	206	8	198
Pro Se Writs Refused*	105	184	6	178
Pro Se Writs Granted	19	24	2	22
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	17	11	9	2
Consolidated Opinions	4	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered **	174	137	100	37
Rehearings Acted Upon***	30	25	14	11
Appeals Pending	61	82	74	8
Argued But Not Decided	8	3	3	0
To Be Argued	53	79	71	8
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	22	17	13	5
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL CIRCUITS</b>				
Appeals Filed	1,191	1,322	1,102	220
Motions Filed	75	109	62	47
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	1,499	2,066	1,229	837
Writs Refused*	1,068	1,552	891	661
Writs Granted	303	375	274	101
Pro Se Writs Filed	865	1,102	68	1,034
Pro Se Writs Refused*	745	906	43	863
Pro Se Writs Granted	182	195	22	173
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	158	188	167	21
Consolidated Opinions	59	68	63	5
Opinions Rendered **	1,255	1,189	914	275
Rehearings Acted Upon***	230	218	173	45
Appeals Pending	766	699	599	100
Argued But Not Decided	98	72	63	9
To Be Argued	668	627	536	91
Opinions Rendered Per Judge	24	22	17	5

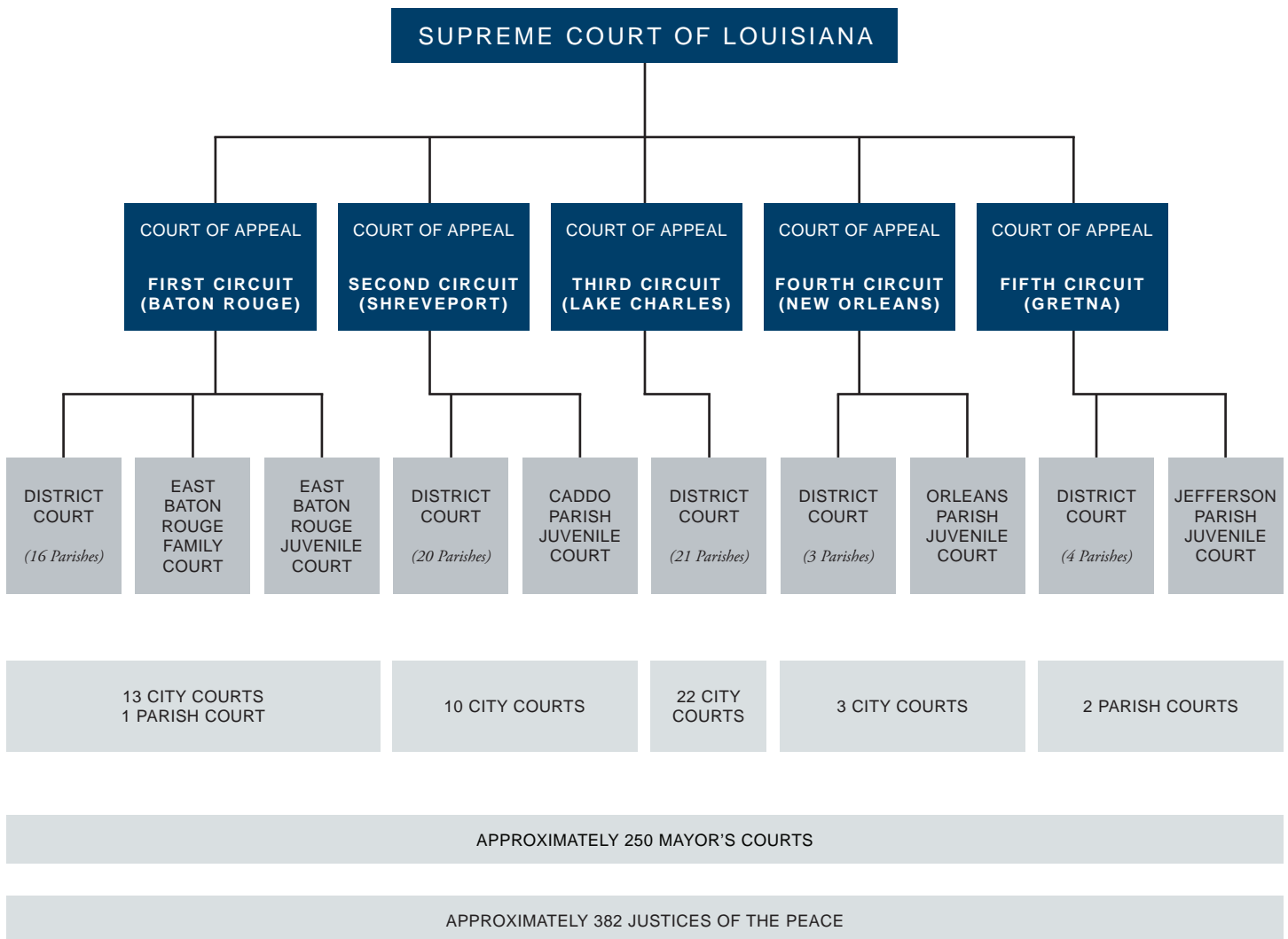
\* Includes writs denied, writs not considered, writs dismissed and transferred

\*\* Includes opinions on appeals, writs, rehearings &amp; supplemental opinions

\*\*\* Includes rehearings on writs

## LOUISIANA COURT STRUCTURE

JANUARY 1, 2022



Number of Justices and Judges:

<b>7</b>	Supreme Court
<b>53</b>	Courts of Appeal
<b>236</b>	District, Family and Juvenile
<b>72</b>	City and Parish Courts
<b>368</b>	Total



# DISTRICT COURTS

The trial court of general jurisdiction in Louisiana is the district court. District courts generally have authority to handle all civil and criminal cases.

Civil cases involve actions to enforce, correct, or protect private rights. In general, civil cases include all types of actions that are not criminal proceedings.

In a criminal proceeding, a person is charged with a crime and brought to trial and either found guilty or not guilty. The purpose of a criminal case is to punish the person who violates criminal laws.

District Courts are typically the level of court where judicial branch innovations find their broadest application. Drug Courts, Re-entry Courts and other problem-solving courts are currently the most widespread examples of such innovations. There are 69 problem-solving courts spread throughout the state, with approximately 70 judges taking an active role in their operation. These programs require intensive judicial oversight of program participants in mandatory treatment, drug testing, employment, and educational activities and involve weekly staffing and court proceedings outside of a judge's regular court duties. Judges handle specialty or problem-solving court dockets on a volunteer basis.

## 2021 District Court Stats

Louisiana District Courts saw an increase in all case filing categories except traffic filings for 2021. Traffic filings decreased -10.9% from 2020, which brought the total filings to 493,291 in 2021. There was an increase in filings in 2021 in: civil filings 6.19%, criminal filings by 4.52% and juvenile filings by 5.40%. Jury trials resumed in most jurisdictions, with civil jury trials going from only 38 in 2020 to 101 in 2021 and criminal jury trials going from 152 to 276 jury trials in 2021.



# JUVENILE COURTS

The juvenile courts have exclusive jurisdiction over delinquency cases involving persons under 17 years of age, with the exception of felony offenses for which 15-16 year olds can be bound over to the district courts. Juvenile courts also handle adoption proceedings of children under the age of 17. Similarly, family courts have jurisdiction over all family matters ranging from delinquency proceedings to divorce and child custody proceedings. Act 654 passed during the 2018 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature went into effect in March 2019 and expanded juvenile court jurisdiction to include a child who commits a non-violent act and is under the age of 18, and a child who commits any delinquent act and is under the age of 18 (effective July 1, 2020).

## 2021 Juvenile Court Stats

Juvenile filings in Louisiana's four specialized juvenile courts increased by +2.57% from 8,641 in 2020 to 8,863.



## LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

		2020 Total Filed	2021 Juvenile Filed	2021 Civil Filed	2021 Criminal Filed	2021 <sup>2</sup> Traffic Filed	2021 Total Filed	JURY TRIALS	
								Civil	Criminal
DISTRICT	PARISH								
1	Caddo <sup>1</sup>	16,929	403	6,137	6,675	2,391	15,606	2	32
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>16,929</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>6,137</b>	<b>6,675</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>15,606</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>
2	Bienville	6,471	25	343	453	4,287	5,108	0	0
	Claiborne	2,713	82	355	470	1,169	2,076	0	4
	Jackson	1,493	157	414	559	741	1,871	0	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>10,677</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>6,197</b>	<b>9,055</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
3	Lincoln	6,123	408	722	1,493	4,107	6,730	0	3
	Union	2,432	168	659	1,262	846	2,935	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>8,555</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>4,953</b>	<b>9,665</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
4	Morehouse	4,801	252	394	1,127	5,407	7,180	0	0
	Ouachita	21,265	1,810	4,981	1,769	12,009	20,569	1	5
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>26,066</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>5,375</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>17,416</b>	<b>27,749</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
5	Franklin	2,098	275	705	809	658	2,447	0	1
	Richland	5,592	73	447	1,092	3,201	4,813	0	1
	West Carroll	1,127	80	221	336	425	1,062	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>8,817</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>2,237</b>	<b>4,284</b>	<b>8,322</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
6	East Carroll	2,707	30	152	275	2,129	2,586	0	0
	Madison	4,619	107	194	770	2,046	3,117	0	1
	Tensas	882	51	114	435	1,007	1,607	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>5,182</b>	<b>7,310</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
7	Catahoula	1,683	0	255	910	367	1,532	0	1
	Concordia	2,860	109	460	843	994	2,406	0	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>4,543</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>3,938</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
8	Winn	1,196	56	257	406	431	1,150	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
9	Rapides	13,156	680	3,176	3,271	3,556	10,683	2	7
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>13,156</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>3,271</b>	<b>3,556</b>	<b>10,683</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
10	Natchitoches	11,700	744	828	1,074	5,111	7,757	2	4
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>5,111</b>	<b>7,757</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
11	Sabine	2,689	163	630	1,338	566	2,697	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>2,697</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
12	Avoyelles	7,778	298	1,233	2,962	4,855	9,348	0	7
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>7,778</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>2,962</b>	<b>4,855</b>	<b>9,348</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
13	Evangeline	6,029	370	807	2,059	8,065	11,301	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>2,059</b>	<b>8,065</b>	<b>11,301</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
14	Calcasieu	21,720	1,519	6,218	14,381	5,237	27,355	11	14
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>21,720</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>6,218</b>	<b>14,381</b>	<b>5,237</b>	<b>27,355</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>
15	Acadia	5,304	305	1,240	1,893	1,696	5,134	0	2
	Lafayette	18,130	1,548	6,809	5,170	4,620	18,147	11	13
	Vermilion	5,328	299	1,350	1,910	1,448	5,007	1	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>28,762</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>9,399</b>	<b>8,973</b>	<b>7,764</b>	<b>28,288</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>
16	Iberia	5,653	62	1,814	1,132	2,865	5,873	1	4
	St. Martin	6,751	196	1,290	904	4,396	6,786	1	0
	St. Mary	5,197	264	1,115	2,055	1,705	5,139	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>17,601</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>4,219</b>	<b>4,091</b>	<b>8,966</b>	<b>17,798</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
17	Lafourche	11,654	390	2,090	3,325	4,930	10,735	0	8
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>11,654</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>4,930</b>	<b>10,735</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
18	Iberville	3,385	152	1,096	1,134	1,673	4,055	0	3
	Pointe Coupee	3,321	79	499	569	1,286	2,433	1	2
	West Baton Rouge	3,117	78	844	1,058	2,340	4,320	4	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>9,823</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>5,299</b>	<b>10,808</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
19	East Baton Rouge <sup>1</sup>	28,902	0	14,697	6,309	9,774	30,780	16	15
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>28,902</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,697</b>	<b>6,309</b>	<b>9,774</b>	<b>30,780</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>
20	East Feliciana	2,355	136	1,054	888	720	2,798	0	2
	West Feliciana	1,574	43	287	908	358	1,596	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>3,929</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>4,394</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS *Two Year Trend in Activity*

DISTRICT	PARISH	2020 Total Filed	2021 Juvenile Filed	2021 Civil Filed	2021 Criminal Filed	2021 <sup>2</sup> Traffic Filed	2021 Total Filed	JURY TRIALS	
								Civil	Criminal
21	Livingston	14,636	761	3,396	3,476	6,036	13,669	0	12
	St. Helena	1,559	68	232	316	523	1,139	0	2
	Tangipahoa	29,335	691	3,566	2,880	12,091	19,228	0	5
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>45,530</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>7,194</b>	<b>6,672</b>	<b>18,650</b>	<b>34,036</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>
22	St. Tammany	29,744	832	6,837	5,671	11,889	25,229	2	19
	Washington	3,998	278	1,073	1,094	1,075	3,520	0	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>33,742</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>6,765</b>	<b>12,964</b>	<b>28,749</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>
23	Ascension <sup>1</sup>	4,874	569	3,005	1,686	0	5,260	1	4
	Assumption	1,878	82	467	673	747	1,969	0	0
	St. James	4,315	105	509	556	1,946	3,116	3	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>11,067</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>3,981</b>	<b>2,915</b>	<b>2,693</b>	<b>10,345</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
24	Jefferson <sup>1</sup>	18,604	0	10,408	7,856	0	18,264	13	34
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>18,604</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,408</b>	<b>7,856</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,264</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>
25	Plaquemines	3,198	60	587	822	2,424	3,893	3	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>3,198</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>3,893</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
26	Bossier	15,292	590	3,680	6,783	5,588	16,641	2	6
	Webster	3,353	149	927	805	1,568	3,449	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>18,645</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>4,607</b>	<b>7,588</b>	<b>7,156</b>	<b>20,090</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>
27	St. Landry	18,156	593	2,251	1,852	14,926	19,622	2	7
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>18,156</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>2,251</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>14,926</b>	<b>19,622</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
28	LaSalle	1,366	111	373	842	531	1,857	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
29	St. Charles	17,270	594	1,538	1,471	19,312	22,915	0	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>17,270</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>19,312</b>	<b>22,915</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
30	Vernon	7,891	236	1,246	866	4,625	6,973	0	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>7,891</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>6,973</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
31	Jefferson Davis	4,712	158	820	743	1,641	3,362	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>4,712</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>3,362</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
32	Terrebonne	19,117	368	2,650	3,416	9,163	15,597	1	7
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>19,117</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>3,416</b>	<b>9,163</b>	<b>15,597</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
33	Allen	2,283	212	587	909	831	2,539	0	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
34	St. Bernard	5,230	191	1,584	1,042	3,192	6,009	2	5
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>5,230</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>3,192</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
35	Grant	3,206	119	700	1,181	1,091	3,091	0	4
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>3,206</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>3,091</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
36	Beauregard	6,218	172	975	1,429	2,455	5,031	1	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>6,218</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>5,031</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
37	Caldwell	1,775	26	312	731	774	1,843	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
38	Cameron	2,866	71	230	889	4,824	6,014	1	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,866</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>4,824</b>	<b>6,014</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
39	Red River	2,481	35	155	389	231	810	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,481</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
40	St. John the Baptist	17,107	307	1,784	1,738	8,396	12,225	2	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>17,107</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>8,396</b>	<b>12,225</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
42	DeSoto	3,995	92	843	688	2,056	3,679	0	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>3,995</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>3,679</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
	Orleans Civil <sup>1</sup>	10,796	0	9,801	0	0	9,801	15	0
	Orleans Criminal <sup>1</sup>	3,247	0	0	1,807	0	1,807	0	4
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>14,043</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,801</b>	<b>1,807</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,608</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Statewide Totals:</b>	<b>507,236</b>	<b>18,882</b>	<b>124,423</b>	<b>124,635</b>	<b>225,351</b>	<b>493,291</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>276</b>

**2021 Report of the Total Amount of Funds Distributed for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment\***

According to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, the total amount paid on judgments for wrongful convictions, imprisonment and loss of life opportunities was \$590,000.00.

1. Violations of Traffic, Misdemeanors, and/or Juvenile/Family Laws are Processed by Parish, City, and/or Juvenile/Family Courts. 2. DWI is included in the criminal totals beginning in 1990.

\*Pursuant to R.S. 15:572.8, Act 262, Regular Session 2007.

# Louisiana Juvenile Courts

## JUVENILE JUDICIAL ACTIVITY: FORMAL PROCESS – CALENDAR YEAR 2021

	CADD0				E. BATON ROUGE			
	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>		Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	
Formal FINS	570	570	570		302	372	302	
Juvenile Traffic	275	275	275		569	854	569	
Juvenile Delinquency	861	0	861		645	1,462	645	
Mental Incapacity to Proceed <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Interstate compact for Juveniles	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Contempt of Court	72	72	72		171	171	171	
Child in Need of Care Cases	113		113		166		280	
Voluntary Transfer of Custody	20		20		46		54	
Jud. Certification of Children for Adoption Cases	14		14		20		24	
Surrender of Parental Rights	8		8		32		30	
Adoption	56		56		83		93	
Child Support	677		0		0		0	
Mental Health	25		25		5		5	
Misdemeanor Prosecution of Adults /Other	2		2		100		100	
Minor Marriages	3		3		0		0	
Protection of Terminally Ill Children	0		0		1		1	
Domestic Abuse	119		119		11		11	
Other	3		3		74		85	
Subtotal	2,818	917	2,141		2,225	2,859	2,370	

1. The category of Children denotes the number of children listed in filed petitions for each case type.

2. Mental Incapacity to Proceed is a subset of the category of Delinquency. The event is enumerated separately as it is considered a significant delinquency event.

## Family Court

### FAMILY COURT FILINGS - 2021

EBR FAMILY COURT			
Answer to Bench Warrant	5	Pre-Rule Status Conference	470
Confirmations	809	Pre-Trial Conference	270
Contempt	453	Review	40
Court Cost Review	207	Rule	4,351
Deferred Execution	309	Set Arrears	176
Deferred Sentencing	129	State Rules	998
DOC Minute	2,740	State/Support Cost Review	1,166
Domestic Violence	2,044	Status Conference	274
Domestic Violence Cost Review	1,254	Trial	485
Domestic Violence Firearm Review	99	UIFSA	350
Ex-Parte Hearing	148	Hearing	7
Judgment Review	1,506	Ruling	17
Miscellaneous	227	Telephone Status Conference	13
Modification	1,127	Exception Hearing	2
Payment Determination	2,224	Judicial Review	3



JEFFERSON			ORLEANS			GRAND TOTAL		
Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>
68	71	68	5	5	5	945	1,018	946
614	948	514	173	380	176	1,631	2,457	1,534
423	965	423	431	1,170	453	2,360	3,597	2,382
20	20	20	0	0	0	20	20	20
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
118	118	118	0	0	0	361	361	361
114		114	100		104	493		611
82		82	14		15	162		171
48		28	0		0	82		66
1		1	1		1	42		40
128		127	44		44	311		320
823		0	0		0	1,500		0
0		0	0		0	30		30
0		0	0		0	102		102
0		0	0		0	3		3
0		0	0		0	1		1
0		0	1		1	131		131
439		439	173		173	689		700
2,878	2,122	1,934	942	1,555	973	8,863	7,453	7,418



# CITY AND PARISH COURTS

The city courts are courts of record. This means that their decisions are reviewed on appeal on the record, as opposed to being tried anew in a higher court. City courts generally exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in civil cases where the amount in controversy cannot exceed \$50,000. In criminal matters, they generally have jurisdiction over ordinance violations and misdemeanor violations of state law. City judges also handle a large number of traffic cases.

Louisiana's three parish courts are distinguishable from city courts only in that they are always staffed by full-time judges and their jurisdiction is a bit broader. Parish courts exercise jurisdiction in civil cases worth up to \$20,000 and criminal cases punishable by fines of \$1,000 or less, imprisonment of six months or less, or both. Cases are appealable from the parish courts directly to the courts of appeal.

## 2021 City & Parish Court Stats

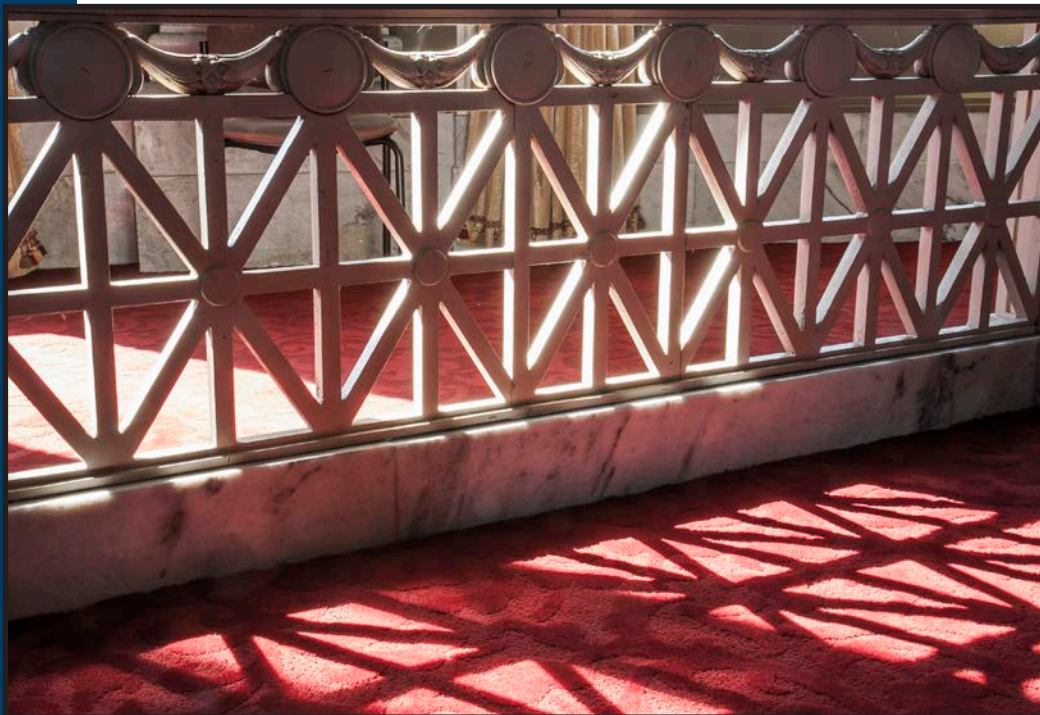
Louisiana city and parish Courts filings decreased by -0.92% from 380,524 filings in 2020 to 377,030. In 2021, there were decreased filings in civil filings by -4.48% and criminal filings by -9.72% but increased filings for juvenile filings by +8.82% and traffic filings by +2.22%.

LOUISIANA CITY AND PARISH COURTS Cases Processed Report Year 2021

	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.
CITY	CIVIL		CRIMINAL		TRAFFIC*		JUVENILE		TOTAL CASES		OTHER PROCEEDINGS	
Abbeville	298	154	1,155	888	2,116	1,170	88	110	3,657	2,322	0	0
Alexandria	2,229	1,466	5,201	5,701	5,425	5,729	0	0	12,855	12,896	0	0
Ascension	558	318	3,104	4,174	6,102	8,137	525	516	10,289	13,145	0	0
Baker	344	607	287	229	1,796	1,258	0	0	2,427	2,094	0	0
Bastrop	442	312	686	656	815	732	0	0	1,943	1,700	0	0
Baton Rouge	4,495	3,588	7,249	8,122	48,736	44,846	0	0	60,480	56,556	17,169	23,379
Bogalusa	248	114	1,720	1,419	1,930	1,766	169	110	4,067	3,409	3,008	2,464
Bossier City	1,492	1,431	1,360	1,228	5,086	5,487	466	536	8,404	8,682	153	127
Breaux Bridge	330	218	340	183	425	242	45	30	1,140	673	84	144
Bunkie	53	54	178	180	1,353	1,353	39	39	1,623	1,626	0	0
Crowley	352	497	754	694	2,546	1,968	197	147	3,849	3,306	0	0
Denham Springs	1,941	1,415	1,451	984	6,259	5,181	230	198	9,881	7,778	0	0
East St. Tammany	1,402	1,757	3,001	2,774	4,151	3,013	708	572	9,262	8,116	2,345	2,345
Eunice	312	239	351	368	670	720	186	175	1,519	1,502	2	0
Franklin	184	134	318	291	561	426	9	9	1,072	860	0	0
Hammond	2,223	2,327	1,227	4,691	5,951	14,430	612	329	10,013	21,777	0	0
Houma	3,002	1,776	1,318	860	2,678	2,861	923	797	7,921	6,294	723	438
Jeanerette	48	81	113	155	4,464	4,454	102	53	4,727	4,743	0	0
Jeff. 1st Parish Ct.	2,799	4,660	2,509	1,834	28,487	29,881	0	0	33,795	36,375	0	0
Jeff. 2nd Parish Ct.	3,529	4,412	1,629	1,411	12,299	12,720	0	0	17,457	18,543	0	0
Jennings	245	228	729	318	4,582	3,059	31	32	5,587	3,637	0	0
Kaplan	63	51	437	495	385	359	73	89	958	994	0	0
Lafayette	2,590	2,643	2,226	2,207	12,427	12,437	664	686	17,907	17,973	669	669
Lake Charles	2,159	1,720	2,111	2,949	6,868	6,229	200	69	11,338	10,967	0	0
Leesville	153	71	364	180	1,825	1,825	93	26	2,435	2,102	0	0
Marksville	342	293	71	71	196	196	17	8	626	568	0	0
Minden	319	340	584	416	627	527	189	84	1,719	1,367	2	2
Monroe	1,961	2,183	2,664	2,011	7,604	6,692	396	171	12,625	11,057	3	1
Morgan City	263	233	799	1,110	1,586	1,149	218	181	2,866	2,673	0	0
Natchitoches	488	321	1,033	757	1,879	1,058	228	153	3,628	2,289	121	121
New Iberia	703	603	880	673	2,204	2,207	172	157	3,959	3,640	167	234
N.O. 1ST City Ct.	6,199	1,963	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,199	1,963	0	0
N.O. 2nd City Ct.	1,176	1,490	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,176	1,490	0	0
N.O. Municipal & Traffic	0	0	5,419	21,367	18,141	389,228	0	0	23,560	410,595	0	0
Oakdale	139	103	311	128	3,474	2,659	85	52	4,009	2,942	0	0
Opelousas	748	812	676	540	2,383	2,219	371	276	4,178	3,847	0	0
Pineville	435	566	3,825	611	4,449	3,510	0	0	8,709	4,687	99	0
Plaquemine	183	12	300	114	475	396	67	34	1,025	556	0	0
Port Allen	187	64	63	52	4,645	3,801	0	0	4,895	3,917	0	0
Rayne	244	242	36	89	1,971	2,709	61	28	2,312	3,068	0	0
Ruston	727	642	564	448	3,113	3,044	0	0	4,404	4,134	645	350
Shreveport	5,302	4,193	1,969	3,910	17,864	12,151	0	0	25,135	20,254	27,289	0
Springhill	166	111	542	310	326	326	106	60	1,140	807	56	36
Sulphur	744	433	2,177	4,028	2,112	8,431	67	91	5,100	12,983	72	49
Thibodaux	496	282	773	807	1,535	1,596	138	175	2,942	2,860	0	0
Vidalia	21	19	92	31	879	459	28	7	1,020	516	0	0
Ville Platte	286	200	655	495	1,151	714	44	19	2,136	1,428	0	0
West Monroe	1,055	730	938	797	1,966	1,636	105	85	4,064	3,248	126	126
Winnfield	38	40	99	98	1,330	743	0	0	1,467	881	0	0
Winnsboro	130	56	395	225	271	225	108	71	904	577	0	0
Zachary	347	259	413	190	1,866	1,330	0	0	2,626	1,779	0	0
<b>STATE TOTALS:</b>	<b>54,190</b>	<b>46,463</b>	<b>65,096</b>	<b>82,269</b>	<b>249,984</b>	<b>617,289</b>	<b>7,760</b>	<b>6,175</b>	<b>377,030</b>	<b>752,196</b>	<b>52,733</b>	<b>30,485</b>

1. Counts are per charge.

Judicial Administrator's Office  
*The Supreme Court of Louisiana*  
400 Royal Street, Suite 1190  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130  
(504) 310-2550 · [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org)



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